

Mandela release discussed Crucial meeting

CAPE TOWN, Jan 24, (AP): The cabinet met today for the first time this year, with an agenda that included the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela and the possible legalisation of the African National Congress.

Decisions reached at the meeting "will change the face of South Africa permanently," said the Sowetan, the country's largest black-oriented daily newspaper.

The cabinet traditionally does not announce its decisions immediately after its meetings, and the outcome of today's session might not be known until President F.W. de Klerk gives a speech Feb 2 at the opening of parliament.

Mandela, the country's most popular black leader, has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for helping plan the start of the ANC's anti-government sabotage campaign. The government has confirmed that he will be freed, and there is strong speculation the release could occur by mid-February.

His release is one of several pre-conditions that the ANC, which currently is a banned organisation in South Africa, says must be met before it enters negotiations on a new political system extending voting rights to blacks. The outlawed movement also demands that it be legalised, that the state of emergency imposed in 1986 be lifted, and that the government halt trials and executions of political opponents.

Government officials have indicated that these conditions could be met, at least to a large extent, leaving the ANC with a decision as to whether it should join negotiations.

Internal stresses fan Indo-Pak rivalry

NEW DELHI, Jan 24, (Reuters): Political and military pressures in both India and Pakistan are stoking confrontation over Kashmir 25 years after the countries fought their last war for the strategic territory, analysts said today.

The confrontation has so far been limited to an exchange of harsh words by diplomats and military skirmishes across the UN-monitored ceasefire line that divides Kashmir.

But Indian troops sent in to crush a militant Muslim movement in the Kashmir Valley, which Delhi says is backed by Pakistan, has dramatically heightened tensions.

"Both countries unfortunately have governments which

are weak in parliamentary strength. They are, therefore, succumbing to military and political pressures on Kashmir in their need to look tough," said political analyst Ashis Nandi.

Jammu and Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state ruled by a Hindu king in colonial times, is a sensitive issue for both Pakistan and India.

But Nandi, at Delhi's Independent Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, saw little danger of a major conflict.

"Both countries know the cost of a war and the fact that developments in Eastern Europe will increasingly draw Western assistance to that region from the Third World,"

Nandi said.

Both countries receive substantial aid from the West. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

"We cannot rule out a military confrontation," said one Western diplomat. "But there are a set of pre-conditions before such an eventuality."

He said one would be a major military operation against the militants, whose campaign for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan has resulted in the deaths of 30 people in the state's summer capital of Srinagar in recent

days.

Senior Indian defence sources said the current crackdown against militants was not the full-scale military operation that may come soon to secure the border and ceasefire line.

That kind of operation would need reinforcements for the estimated 100,000 troops based in Jammu and Kashmir, one defence source said.

India and Pakistan already have sizeable forces ranged along the 1,400 km (870 mile) ceasefire line snaking through the heavily forested mountain terrain. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest.

Baku port blockade blasted

(Continued from Page 1)

Azerbaijan and Iran completely legally, and 1,600 crossed the border in the opposite direction.

The Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh met Iran's ambassador today to discuss unrest linked to Azerbaijani nationalism on the Soviet-Iranian border.

Samed-Ogly, a poet and member of the Nationalist Popular Front, said he saw several vessels sunk during the 40-minute bombardment.

The population of the city on the banks of the Caspian Sea defied military orders to return to work four days after Soviet troops entered the city to crush nationalist unrest.

Exchanges of fire were heard in city districts as the official death toll in clashes between army and civilians rose to 99.

Samed-Ogly said it took the army no longer than 10 to 15 minutes to get artillery and tanks into place against the blockade organised by seamen who feared Soviet forces were transporting the bodies of the past week's dead out of Baku.

"They started firing from artillery guns, grenade launchers and heavy machine guns from the embankment and also from naval ships sealed in the harbour," he told Reuters by telephone from his home in the city.

"The fire lasted about 40 minutes. I saw that some of the civilian ships were hit because there were flashes from them. I think some were sunk and others retreated into the open sea."

No one could approach the area, he said, because Lenin Square opposite the bay remained sealed off by troops.

"Before the attack merchant ships were issuing long whistles every hour, now there is silence from there," he said. "It was real combat."

Soviet authorities intensified efforts today to put down a nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan, detaining 43 suspected activists, seizing copying machines and banning demonstrations and strikes, media reported.

The Soviet news agency Tass, quoting a communique from Baku's military commander, Lieutenant General Anatoly Dubinsky, said 43 people had been arrested overnight in raids on "illegally functioning organisations."

Another 57 were held for breaking the curfew in Baku and 53 were "detained administratively," Tass said without explanation.

Dubinsky did not name the illegal organisations but a member of the Nationalist Popular Front said those arrested belonged to its affiliate, the Council of National Defence, and the Front itself.

Mamed Ali-Zade, one of the national defence committee's directors, was arrested at his home about midnight, his wife said today.

An editor with the official Azerbaijan news agency said only members of the more extreme Council of National Defence had been arrested.

The council was abolished by a military decree published last evening which also banned strikes and rallies in the republic, an apparent response to the mass funeral on Monday of Azeri killed when the troops smashed through nationalist roadblocks which brought one million people onto the streets.

Iran said today Soviet Azeris were building a bridge across the Araks border river.

The Iranian news agency Irna said Soviet Azeris began laying the foundation for a bridge yesterday, defying a state of siege declared by Moscow in Nakhichevan region.

US President George Bush said today Gorbachev faced an internal problem of "enormous dimensions."

"I hope that he not only survives but stays strong because I think it is in our interest that perestroika succeeds," Bush said in reference to Gorbachev's reform programme.



Colourful parade

Bandsmen of India's exotic Camel Regiment take a break from patrolling the borders to rehearse in New Delhi for a colourful parade to mark the country's 41st Republic Day on Jan 26. The band claims to be the first mounted on camels in the world. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fight over protocols: Thirty people were injured, five in gunfire, when rival members of Bangladesh's largest opposition party fought over who would be the first to greet their visiting party leader.

Police and witnesses said the fighting started when Sheikh Hasina, Awami League chief, arrived at Chittagong airport yesterday from Dhaka to speak at a party rally.

Airport officials said they saw members of two groups led by rival local leaders shoot revolvers and throw home-made bombs. (Reuters)

Zambian envoy dies of Aids: Zambia's top diplomat in India died of cancer which doctors believe was contracted after he was exposed to the Aids virus, a hospital spokesman said today.

The spokesman for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences said U.G. Mwila, Zambia's high commissioner or ambassador, died Saturday.

The immediate cause of death was a cardio-respiratory failure but the patient was suffering from a terminal ailment, said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under the institute's rules. (AP)

American killed in Panama: A gunman shot and killed a senior American employee of the Panama Canal during a robbery at his home in Panama City, a spokeswoman for the Panama Canal Commission said today.

"He was shot last night in his house," said spokeswoman, Willie Friar. Friar said two men, at least one of whom was armed, entered the house at about 8:45 pm last night, and that the American was shot during the robbery. He died early today at a US army hospital, she said. (Reuters)

Elderly widow evicted: A 74-year-old widow who uses a walker was evicted yesterday from the home where she has lived for 25 years for defaulting on her government loan.

Mable Roper said she had no idea she was about to be evicted and claimed she was not behind on her mortgage payments.

"All my stuff is scattered everywhere," she said as her belongings were carted out of the brick bungalow and dumped on the curb. (AP)

Defence minister resigns: Argentine Defence Minister Italo Luder abruptly resigned today in a disagreement with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Jaime Caceres.

Luder quit after telling a radio station he had ordered that Caceres be disciplined for arranging a meeting last week with President Carlos Menem that excluded Luder.

Caceres discussed military problems, including internal security, at the dinner meeting with President Menem and other top aides, Luder told Radio Mitre. "I was in the city ... and did not know of the meal," he said. (AP)

Soviet intrusions: The Soviet military intelligence agency GRU has been sending mini-submarines into Swedish territorial waters, a peace researcher said today.

The intrusions, which previously were assumed to be carried out by the Soviet Navy, were launched from a mobile trailer system roaming the coast of the Soviet Baltic states, said Wilhelm Agrell, in a radio interview.

The GRU also sent larger intelligence-gathering submarines into Swedish waters, Agrell said. (AP)

Saudi travelling show Parade to fight drugs

NICOSIA, Jan 24, (Reuters): Camels, actors, a helicopter and thousands of balloons are being thrown into battle in Saudi Arabia's war against drugs.

They will form part of a travelling show which will kick off in Riyadh's sports stadium on Saturday and circle through 11 cities in the following 54 days.

Saudis attracted by gift tokens, music and the colourful parade will hear loudspeakers blaring slogans from the holy Quran and be told to "stay away from things banned by God and harmful to man, society and religion."

Leaflets, balloons, a short play and a special new song will drive home the message against drug abuse.

Saudi Arabia made drug dealing a capital crime in 1987. Many of the 99 people publicly beheaded in the kingdom last year were convicted on narcotics charges.

Manila rebels get big guns

N.Korean arms for NPA

MANILA, Jan 24, (Reuters): The Philippines is investigating newspaper reports that a foreign ship unloaded hundreds of guns near Manila for army rebels involved in plots to overthrow President Corazon Aquino, officials say.

"This is still being verified ... the chief of staff has already asked the navy to follow this up," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters today.

Two Manila newspapers earlier said a foreign vessel bearing Arabic markings landed crates of high-powered rifles off the coast of Cavite province on the night of Jan 12.

The newspapers, quoting intelligence sources, said the unidentified ship was met at sea by 15 fishing boats that took the arms cache to Cavite, just south of Manila.

Army rebels who last month nearly toppled Aquino in the sixth and most serious coup attempt against her have warned they will soon launch a new revolt.

Armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said yesterday coup threats would linger for as long as leaders of the failed rebellion were at large, but he doubted they could launch

another mutiny of the same scale as that last month.

The Manila Times newspaper said the smuggling of guns into Cavite coincided with the sighting of fugitive coup leader ex-colonel Gregorio Honasan in a Cavite resthouse owned by a local official.

Cavite is the site of the Sangley Point naval station from which rebel pilots took off to bomb the presidential palace during the December coup attempt.

Army rebels say Aquino is a weak leader who is driving poor Filipinos to communism by ignoring basic needs.

Government lawyers today filed graft charges against opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile before a presidential commission tracking down the allegedly ill-gotten wealth of the late president Ferdinand Marcos and associates.

Enrile, called the charges "flimsy" and "part of the harassment" the government had launched against him for his alleged role in the December revolt.

The government accused Enrile, facing rebellion charges, of alleged links with army

rebels, and three others of diverting 10 million pesos (\$450,000) in 1976 from a fund, for coconut farmers to a state theatre built by Marcos's wife, Imelda.

The commission's prosecutors can either dismiss the case or if it finds enough evidence, send it to court for trial.

Communist guerrillas have forged an agreement with North Korea to provide arms in exchange for information on US military facilities in the Philippines, said captured rebel documents released by the Philippine military today.

The documents were captured during the raid Oct 4 in suburban San Juan town that led to the capture of Wilma Tiamzon, a member of the politburo of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, a military statement said.

Tiamzon, escaped from a military camp during a Christmas Mass.

The military statement did not say if the Koreans had actually shipped arms to the Philippine communists armed with the 19,000-strong New People's Army, which has been battling the Manila government for two decades.



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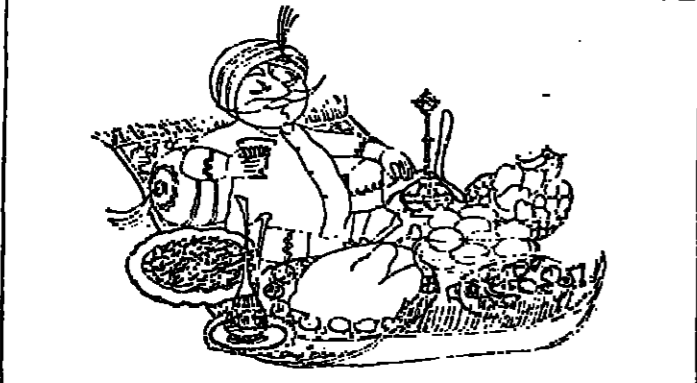
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Scarf row ends as UK school reverses ban

ALTRINCHAM, England, Jan 24, (AP) — A row over Muslim head scarves, similar to a dispute in France last October, ended yesterday when the school involved reversed its ban on the scarves.

Dr Abdul-Rab Alvi, whose 12-year-old Muslim daughters had been banned from classes at Altrincham Grammar School for girls' near Manchester in central England for wearing religious head scarves, said he was pleased they would be allowed to return to school today wearing scarves.

"It started as something in the family because the girls felt strongly about it and it became something of countrywide significance," Alvi said.

The girls, Fatima, 16, and Aisha, 14, had been sent home every school day since Dec 14 when they began wearing their scarves to school. The school, part of Britain's state-funded public education sector, had initially argued that the scarves were a safety danger to the girls in school laboratories and the gymnasium.

The chairman of the school governors, Gill Thompson, said of the decision to reverse the ban: "We felt we had to take account of changes in our society... from time to time it is necessary to change them (school rules) and we have modified them."

Largely as a result of Asian immigration, Britain now has 1.5 million Muslims.

The new regulations require the scarves be navy blue, in keeping with the school's uniforms. They will not be allowed in science and physical education classes, the governors said, because of safety concerns.

The school has said there are 18 other Muslim pupils who have not requested to wear scarves.

Islamic law requires girls past puberty to cover their heads in the presence of men who are not close relatives. Three men teach at the school of 727 students and there is a male caretaker.

The Manchester Council of Mosques ruled in December that the girls should conform to Islamic law. Council spokesman Ahmad Bashir said: "It was a very courageous

decision to reverse the policy and means the idea of British justice and fairness has been upheld."

In October three Muslim girls in Creil, north of Paris, were banned from school because they refused to remove their scarves. France's state school system bans all outward signs of religion.

The dispute sparked public demonstrations and became a national political issue. France's highest administrative authority, the Council of State, ruled in November that Muslim girls may wear scarves to school as long as it causes no disruption.

There are no laws forbidding religion in Britain's state schools.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

American dies in gunfire

Police, Muslims clash

OXFORD, England: Oxford University voted Tuesday to award an honorary doctorate of divinity to South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an outspoken critic of apartheid.

The vote by the ancient university's congregation, the parliament of professors, tutors, fellows and administrators, was unanimous. Some 70 people attended the five-minute meeting in the university's Sheldonian Theatre.

At least a minority vote against Tutu, the archbishop of Cape Town, had been expected after reports that some academics opposed his selection.

"It was thought there would be some opposition today but clearly there was none," said Robert Gasser, bursar of Brasenose College. (AP)

DUBLIN: A rare American heron made an epic flight across the Atlantic — then promptly got killed by an Irish hunting dog. "This is a tragedy. It is a shame after surviving a flight across the Atlantic it should have met such an end," top Irish ornithologist Killian Mullarney said after the death of the bird, a long brown heron, was reported.

"It was the first American bird known to have reached Ireland since 1973 so a lot of people, including many from Britain, would have liked to have seen it and must be very disappointed." It was killed

in Wexford, southeast Ireland, on Tuesday.

Many birdwatchers were planning to flock over to see the rare bird, which was blown off course over the Atlantic while migrating from North America to Central America for the winter. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: It was ridiculed as a waste of money and another typical wacky California idea but three years and \$750,000 later, a special state-appointed task force has decreed that self-esteem is good

for you.

"Self-esteem is central to most of the personal and social ills that plague our society today," was the key finding of the California task force to promote self-esteem and personal and social responsibility. Its report, released on Tuesday, also found — Gosh — that the family is a "crucial incubator of self-esteem."

State assemblyman John Cascone, whose own esteem suffered when he proposed the task force, said the results of the study vindicated him. (Reuters)

UK incentive to non-whites

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): Britain's military launched a campaign yesterday to attract more non-whites to soldiering, acknowledging many possible recruits feared racism in the ranks.

An independent survey commissioned by the Defence Ministry showed only 1.6 per cent of applicants to the armed forces in 1987 and 1988 came from ethnic minorities, although blacks and Asians formed 5.6 per cent of the general population.

"A main reason for this was the fear they would experience racial discrimination."

Indians seeking admission in US

Tests cancelled

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (UPI): For a fourth time in recent months, a security breach has forced the educational testing service to cancel tests in India that students take for admission to US colleges and universities, officials said yesterday.

ETS officials in Princeton, New Jersey, said they cancelled a graduate management admission test for 850 students at six centres in South India Jan 27 because two test books were missing at one centre. Of the 220,000 people who take the GMAT annually for admission to business school, 5,000 are in India.

On Dec 6, another security breach prompted the ETS to cancel the graduate record examination for some 3,700 students in India and throw out scores for 2,744 students who took the GRE Oct 14 and for 620 students who took the test of English as a foreign language Oct 28.

ETS officials said in all four cases students had or could have had access to the tests in advance. They refused to say whether the cases were linked or whether they involved thefts of tests, either in the United States or India.

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Ruthlessly modern

Avant-Garde French designer Claude Montana paid only lip service to tradition when he unveiled a ruthlessly modern haute couture collection for classic 1990. Under new financial management since Britain's Midlands Bank bought into it, appointed Montana in October in a bid to inject new life into its

He certainly did that. But whether the wealthy and usually conservative women who can afford these clothes will appreciate pink bloomer jumpuits, bright hot pants and gauze shirts instead of their conventional suits remains to be seen. (Reuters wirephoto).

Ungaro triumphs

Happy holiday fashion

PARIS, Jan 24, (AP) — Feather-light fabrics and skin-baring styles brightened the runways yesterday as designers revealed their happy holiday haute couture clothes for summer.

The day was a triumph for Emanuel Ungaro, who has been totally seduced by a light new look. He's simplified his feminine styles to essentials, using gossamer fabrics and stunning colours to display his talents.

This is great news for his fans who found some of his recent shows overloaded with show-off fur-trimmed and superfluous details.

Ungaro's new look started off with neatly lined new silk suits in shades of Bordeaux and chrome yellow followed by bi- and tri-coloured light gabardine suits with swirling details in shades of violet, pink and orange to khaki and some peacock blues.

"I was aiming for the elegance of my old master, Balenciaga," said Ungaro after the show.

His remarkable daytime looks included satin-lined shortie cashmere coats in sizzling colours topped some beautifully cut and draped short crepe dresses. There was a choice of décolletés — you could either flaunt it or hide it.

When it came to dressier clothes, Ungaro followed through beautifully. His sleek short silk shifts in all colours topped by floaty mousseline squares were perfect in their understatement.

Of course, Ungaro had to have some fun with rich fabrics. He used plenty of heavy guipure lace, draped lame floral fabrics, and sequined, brocade jackets or blouses to haute couture advantage.

Karl Lagerfeld also had a light touch in his show for Chanel, which won warm praise from the fashion crowd.

The abbreviated styles were resolutely younger than ever. In fact they were so short and sweet they looked apt for the junior miss set, especially when modeled by some baby-faced youngsters.

Lagerfeld continued some of his past Chanel ideas. For instance the shortie jacket over legs alone became a sort of pretty coat-dress this time and in fact was cut sexily like a tulip. It could be worn with a half-skirt (hip-high) or a puff of chiffon.

These lolitas often paraded down the runway in long "amazon" or fitted riding jackets with deep décolletés. There were all kinds of couture details: black velvet cuffs and lapels on the softest of pinks, black and white raffia piping on many jackets and skirts, graphic geometric patterns embroidered on a white mini-coat.

To end it all in grand style, Lagerfeld brought out an array of short-long evening gowns bathed in clouds of chiffon, sometimes combined with elaborate guipure lace.

Louis Feraud turned out a smashing collection of bright, beautiful clothes showing the creator from the south of France in top form. He led off with a garden party of emerald and violet leaf-embroidered short suits with scoop necks, setting a sunny tone.

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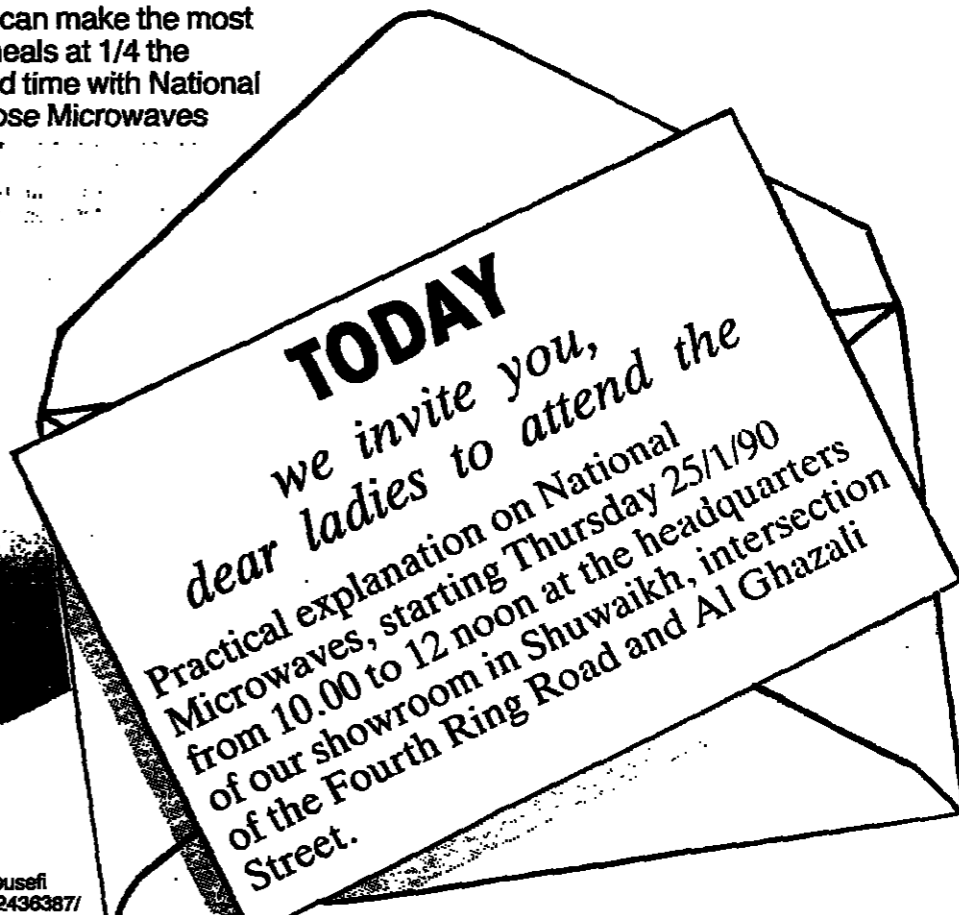
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US cautious over Soviet troop cut

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (AP): A senior administration arms control adviser raised concerns yesterday about unilateral Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern and Central Europe, saying they could increase political pressure for reciprocal cutbacks in the West.

Edward L. Rowley, a former negotiator who counsels President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on arms control issues, said it would be far better to carry out troop withdrawals under a treaty now being negotiated between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Despite "unprecedented progress," Rowley said several vital issues remained unresolved in

the Vienna talks. He said they include Soviet insistence on excluding large numbers of combat aircraft from treaty controls and not accepting Western demands that withdrawn troops be demobilised.

Also, he said, the Soviets so far have agreed only to remove military equipment that would be barred under the treaty—not to destroy it, as negotiators for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation insist.

And yet, Rowley said, the end of the Communist Party's monopoly on power in the Soviet bloc "makes prospects for completing a sound conventional forces reduction treaty more

promising."

The senior US official spoke at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. His prepared remarks were distributed in Washington.

Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have set completion of the treaty as one of their arms control goals for 1990. And Rowley, in a detailed review, listed many more issues as being resolved than still unsettled.

He also raised several questions about the withdrawals of troops and tanks that the Soviets have begun from Central and Eastern Europe outside the treaty. Pressure is building from the new leaders of Czechoslovakia and

Hungary for further reductions.

Rowley said pullouts could be verified only under a treaty.

He noted that congressional observers last summer determined that while the Soviets had withdrawn some tanks from Eastern Europe they had left other weapons, including artillery, behind.

Premier Miklos Nemeth yesterday said he and his Soviet counterpart agreed that Soviet troops have outlived their usefulness on Hungarian soil and that preliminary talks on their withdrawal would start soon.

Democracy Western style 'not for Romania'

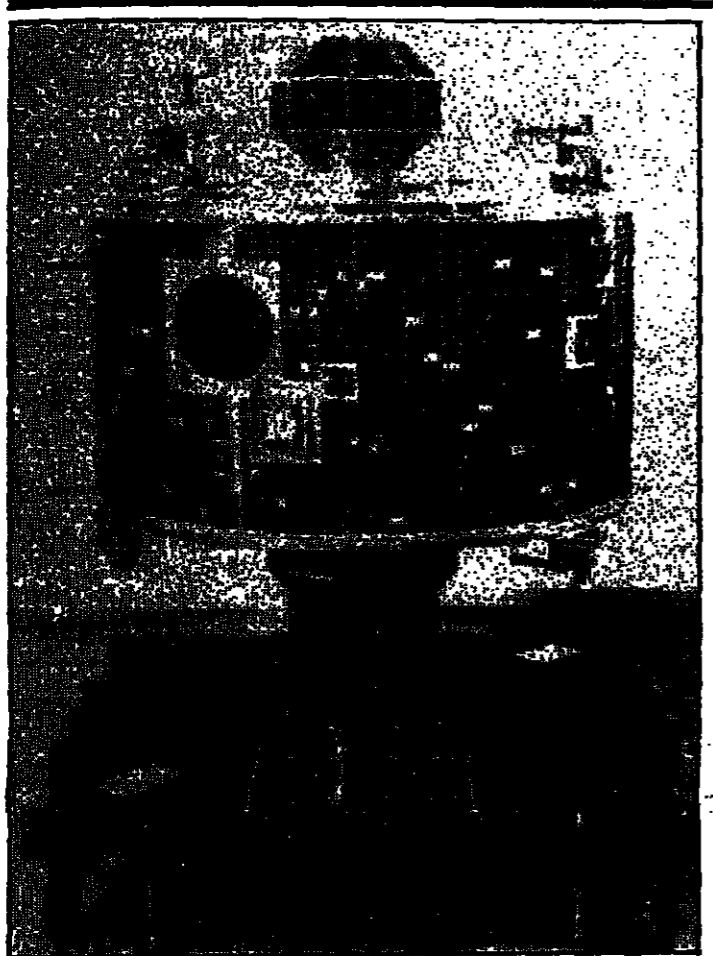
Hundreds march to protest Front's participation in elections

BUCHAREST, Jan 24, (AP): Romania's first free elections in more than four decades are to be held May 20, and UN observers will be asked to monitor balloting, a senior member of the provisional government announced yesterday.

Dimitru Mazilu, on the council of the National Salvation Front that has run Romania since Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed last month, told reporters that Front candidates would run for Parliament. Initially, the Front had indicated it would not field

candidates. Meanwhile, interim president Ion Iliescu, in separate comments reported by the Soviet news agency Tass, rejected the idea of a multiparty system as "a historically outdated model of democracy."

Iliescu said the front should take part in the elections as a "broad-based organisation of people of divergent views, united on a broad platform of national unity," according to Tass.



Muses-A launched

Japan's first spacecraft bound for the Moon rocketed into the night skies off the coast of southern Japan yesterday on a mission that is part of an ambitious space programme, a launch official said.

The Muses-A (picture) spacecraft blasted off at 1146 GMT carrying two satellites that will reach the Moon on March 18, said the official of the government's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS).

It all goes well, Japan will become the third nation after the United States and the Soviet Union to send a probe into orbit around the Earth's nearest celestial neighbour.

The Muses-A mission is aimed at teaching scientists and engineers how to harness the gravity of the Moon to land spacecraft of the lunar surface or to swing them deeper into space to rendezvous with Venus or with comets. Such missions are being contemplated for later this decade. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan polls set for Feb 18

TOKYO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Japan's cabinet today dissolved the lower house of Parliament and set Feb 18 as the date for general elections, which will be the toughest test for the Liberal Democratic Party in its 34-year rule.

The two-week campaign, which will kick off officially on February 3, will show how well the ruling party has survived opposition attacks on the issue of political ethics, an unpopular sales tax and farm policies.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other LDP leaders said their target was to win 257 seats, a simple majority, in the 512-member lower house.

Top government spokesman Mayumi Morioka said the election was a choice between liberalism and socialism. "In the world, the superiority of freedom, democracy and the market economy, which we have chosen, has been confirmed," Morioka, the chief cabinet secretary, said in reference to recent events in Eastern Europe.

"This will show whether politics in the 1990s, a decade when Japan must make difficult international decisions, will be steered by the LDP or the Socialists," LDP Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa said.

The upper house, the less powerful of the two chambers, is under opposition control after the LDP's historic defeat in elections last July.

That defeat, the worst since the LDP's formation in 1955, was blamed on the inept introduction of the unpopular sales tax, the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal and government attempts to open farm trade to imports.

The main opposition Japan Socialist Party criticised the government for dissolving parliament before Kaifu had delivered a traditional policy speech.

"Mr Kaifu dissolved the Diet without giving us a chance to ask questions on his policy speech. This cannot be accepted," Japan socialist chairwoman Takako Doi said in a nationally televised interview.

The head of another opposition party, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, said the LDP was politically bankrupt.

"The LDP is in a blind alley. We will have to build an entire new era," said Komeito chairman Koshiro Ikeda.

"It is about time for the average citizen to participate in politics here as they have done in many Eastern European nations," said Satsuki Eda, leader of the opposition Socialist Democratic Federation.

Several hundred Romanians marched through central Bucharest today in a spontaneous protest against plans by the ruling National Salvation Front to contest next May's free general elections.

"We want an end to communism," the protesters shouted as they marched through freezing fog to the front's headquarters.

The headquarters, in the Foreign Ministry building, was cordoned off by soldiers and police. Witnesses saw three truckloads of troop reinforcements driving towards Victory Square, where the ministry is located.

Democracy continued to arrive in the square, where their leaders argued with senior army officers as lines of troops stood by. No incidents or arrests were reported.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Teodor Vasiliu set Saturday as the date of the initial Bucharest trial of Ceausescu associates and said the four former top officials would be the first to go to court on abetting genocide and other charges.

In another development, a historical document, the last moments of Ceausescu and his wife said the two had run in panic from the firing squad lined up to execute them Dec 23.

The dictator was finally cornered and shot. His wife was initially shot in the back and then sprayed frontally with bullets, historian Cristian Popescu said.

In the remarks reported by Tass, Iliescu said other Warsaw Pact countries' moves toward Western-style democracy, "does not suit us."

"We do not want to follow any model, including the model of bourgeois democracy in Romania in the 30s," Iliescu, a former ranking communist official, was quoted as saying.

Silviu Brucan, another prominent ex-communist and Front member, told a news conference that May 20 would be election day, delaying the vote from an unspecified date in April first announced by the council.

Brucan said the decision was in response to requests from new political parties for more time to campaign and was reached at a meeting of the Front yesterday afternoon.

The council reversed its initial pledge that it would play no role in elections "in response to the many demands from the mining workers... from various (other) workers, students from the polytechnic institute, others and intellectuals," he asserted.

"The council, to demonstrate goodwill and a desire to ensure objectivity in the elections, has declared its readiness to receive a group of observers from the United Nations," he added.

There was no immediate UN response to the statement.

A Romanian lawyer who defended ousted Ceausescu and his wife Elena at their trial says the condemned couple did not realise their fate was imminent, then a firing squad pumped them with bullets.

Czechoslovakia: President Vaclav Havel yesterday announced he would invite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush to meet in Prague as a symbol of East-West reconciliation.

East Germany: East Germany's inexperienced opposition yesterday put off talks on power-sharing with the still-dominant communists until next week, as the reformists pondered how much government responsibility they want.

Bulgaria: A leader of the Agrarian Union, until recently completely dominated by the ruling Communist Party, yesterday said her party was opposed to retaining in the constitution Bulgaria's definition as a "socialist state."

Yugoslavia: About 20,000 ethnic Albanians, mostly university students and workers, demonstrated in the troubled Kosovo province today, demanding that a state of emergency be lifted in the region and protesting alleged human rights abuses.

Hun Sen unveils peace formula

PHNOM PENH, Jan 24, (Agencies): Prime Minister Hun Sen today outlined his own formula for peace in Cambodia, saying it could break the deadlock in the 11-year conflict.

He told a news conference that under the plan, inspired by an Australian peace initiative, two Cambodian administrations would operate in areas each claimed while the United Nations arranged a ceasefire and general elections.

Hun Sen denied charges by the Khmer Rouge and other guerrilla groups that this would involve partitioning the country. He said it embraced the Australian approach, which calls for a UN-administered trusteeship for Cambodia while elections are organised.

The Phnom Penh government is now holding a coalition of three guerrilla groups.

Looking relaxed and confident, Hun Sen said: "We can regard the Australian proposal as the one which could break the deadlock which happened during the Paris conference."

The international conference in Paris last summer ended in a political stalemate, with the four sides taking their struggle back to the battlefield in the past four months.

As the guerrillas made gains, with the Khmer Rouge in the forefront, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council last week found a new consensus on the road to peace based on a central UN role.

Hun Sen, who earlier this month had talks with Australian officials and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, said his plan got round the two main obstacles, a role for the Khmer Rouge and an interim administration.

Diplomats said he had clearly made two important concessions, acceptance of a major UN role and of presence of the Khmer Rouge in some form in a settlement process. Both had been rejected in the past.

But they said the danger of the proposal was that it encouraged further fighting, with each side trying to grab as much territory as possible before a ceasefire.

The 38-year-old premier still refused to recognise a Khmer Rouge government, which Western governments say killed more than one million Cambodians before it was ousted by the 1978 Vietnamese invasion.

But he said he would accept the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea, the loose alliance of the three guerrilla factions, as a whole even if it included Khmer Rouge.

He said the United Nations could supervise a ceasefire and elections while the two sides ruled territory under their control.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas have moved the seriously ill and virtually all other Cambodian refugees from a United Nations-aided camp toward the dangerous Thai-Cambodian border, a UN official said today.

The communist fighters herded the refugees out of Borai camp in eastern Thailand, apparently to prevent UN officials from transferring them to nearby Site K, a new camp that is safer and has better medical and other services, the official reported.

Cambodia's reluctant prince, Norodom Sihanouk, announced today he had resigned as president of the resistance's coalition government and would indefinitely cease meeting with most foreign diplomats.

He repeated an earlier statement that he will not attend any international conferences aimed at trying to resolve the Cambodian war.

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Seoul dissidents pledge drive against merger

SEOUL, Jan 24, (AP): South Korea's largest dissident alliance pledged today to launch a civil drive to stop President Roh Tae-Woo's governing party and two opposition parties from joining in a new conservative group.

Meanwhile, police said hundreds of police officers were mobilized to protect the two opposition leaders whose homes and offices have been flooded with threatening telephone calls since they announced the merger. Leaders of the United National Democratic Movement, an umbrella organization for about 200 dissident groups, agreed to launch a nation-wide movement with "all democratic forces" opposing the new party, a spokesman

said. He said that in its drive, the dissident alliance was ready to establish connections with radical students, workers and Kim Dae-Jung, who heads the Party for Peace and Democracy, the largest opposition party.

The spokesman did not mention what methods the alliance might use in its drive, although it called for immediate National Assembly elections to seek a public judgement on the merger, which it called an attempt by a pre-US military dictatorship to prolong its power.

The dissident organization played a key role in sparking months of widespread street protests that forced the government to carry out broad reforms in 1987.

Mubarak, Peres in peace talks

Israel still divided over issue

Rebels persuaded to stop fighting

Salang highway, Kabul's main land link with the Soviet Union, but could not disrupt the flow of supplies for long periods.

named in line with standing rules.

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Ben Ali looks at his Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh displaying papers in front of him at the end of the summit of the Arab Maghreb Union. (Reuter wirephoto)

TUNIS, Jan. 24, (AP): The five nations of North Africa's Arab League today announced the formation of a new union for North West Africa.

The union was proclaimed in

Sheikh Sid Ahmed Ould Baba representing President Maouiya Sid' Ahmed Ould Taya.

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FRANKFURT, Jan. 24
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ing to try to combat kidnappings and other acts of terrorism in Muslim West Beirut, military sources said today.

In another security development, clashes resumed between rival Shiite Muslim militias in South Lebanon after a relative lull of 16 days.

Police said the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and the mainstream Shiite Amal militia were locked in an artillery and rocket duel in Iqlim Al Tuffah province south of Beirut.

"No advances were reported from either side," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing rules.

98 people killed and 279 wounded in the latest round of Amal-Hezbollah clashes which broke out Dec 23.

A Lebanese military source speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 400-strong squads will be drawn from the army, Mukafaha, or combat brigades, and the police Rapid Intervention Force in a move meant to encourage foreign diplomats to return to a planned militia-free West Beirut.

The creation of the force is part of a security plan, the highlights of which were worked out by Hiram and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in three days of talks in Damascus that ended yesterday.

VIDEO SHOPS

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and mounting social unrest. Eighteen political parties now jostle for support in a country where only five months ago a single legal party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), ruled supreme.

But President Chadli Benjedid has found that greater democracy combined with economic crisis can lead to turmoil.

Muslim fundamentalists have been blamed for recent violent attacks against a police station and a court. Strikes have been hitting the crippled economy at an average of eight a day.

"Has freedom become an impossible dream?" asked the liberal weekly *Algerie Actualite*. "Must we pass through generalised chaos before attaining it?"

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Amir patronises cadet officers graduation

Under the auspices of His Highness the Amir, a graduation ceremony for the 18th batch of cadet officers was held yesterday at the Police Academy. In addition to His Highness the Amir, the ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, sheikhs, ministers and high ranking government officials.

A group of the 18th batch of cadet officers handed the colours of the academy to the cadet officers of the 19th batch.

Director General of the Academy Brigadier Khalid Al Munayes delivered a speech in which he said that among the 112-member 18th batch there were

cadet officers from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, and stressed that the attendance of HH the Amir is an honour and a motive for a good start for the practical life of the officers.

Brigadier Munayes said the achievements of the police academy were due to the care extended to it by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier as well as continued support of the interior minister.

HH the Amir handed prizes and certificates to the distinguished officers, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah told reporters that he hopes that the graduates would succeed in serving Kuwait and its political and social security.

He added that "we have trained them to respect human beings and to implement laws which have the final say against anyone who violates or tries to challenge law and order, and I pray that God would preserve Kuwait's security and stability under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister".

Peninsula Shield to stay in Saudi Arabia

Kuwait conscription law to be reviewed

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jaber Al Khalid Al Sabah today affirmed that the headquarters of the military forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council will continue to be in Saudi Arabia.

"The Peninsula Shield will remain in its current site in Hafr El Batin ... there is no intention of change," the Kuwaiti military commander told a local Arabic newspaper in an interview published here.

He pointed out that the present location of the headquarters of the forces is "very good" and that GCC military officials

have no plans to relocate the headquarters to somewhere else.

The Peninsula Shield Force of the GCC states is a 12,000-man force composed of soldiers from the regular armies of the six states making up the GCC.

The force was established years ago and received utmost attention to produce the most qualified soldiers who are ready to defend the countries of the Gulf at short notice.

On another issue, the deputy chief of state said the conscription law in Kuwait needs to be reviewed in light of continued

changes in Kuwait.

Asked if there is intention to increase the number of years of service for enlisted soldiers and officers, he replied that when the law is reviewed, officials will try to pin down the negative aspects on previous experiences and introduce new positive ones, even if that requires increasing the period of military service.

Kuwait has no trend to reduce its military staff, rather it encourages citizens to join the defence forces and has established a military academy to graduate specialised and qualified officers.

He added that Bubiyan, Warba and Failaka Islands are predominantly military zones and it is imperative that armed forces will continually make their presence felt in these and other similar areas.

He envisaged the extension and expansion of Kuwaiti housing areas to encompass all Kuwaiti borders with neighbouring countries.

The official said that the recent visit of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Egypt was aimed at developing military and political relations.

Kuwait to host international conference on Aids Feb 12-14

38 cases identified

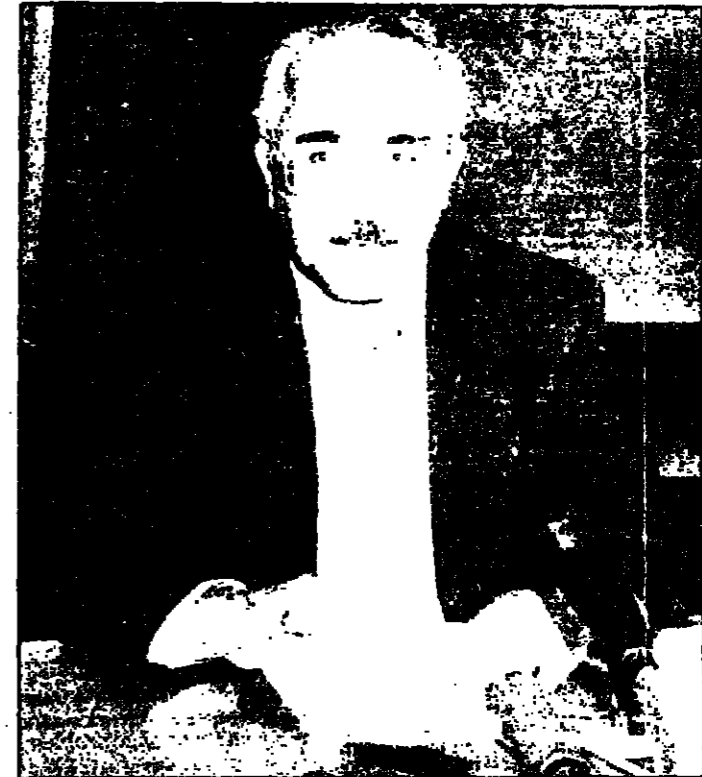
By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

A THOUSAND specialists on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) will meet in Kuwait next month to discuss the latest development concerning prevention of the disease and care for its carriers, announced Dr Hussain Al Momen in a press conference yesterday.

The Kuwait Third International Conference on Aids will be held from Feb 12 to 14, said Dr Momen, head of the conference's press committee. He added that participants will follow up on issues discussed in the preceding two conferences.

"This event which will be held under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince will witness the announcement of Kuwait's Declaration for the Prevention of Aids, a distinguished national document about every thing that has to do with public awareness about this disease," said Dr Momen stressing that awareness is the only weapon that could be used against it especially when no vaccines and no cures have been developed yet.

Abdul Aziz Al Bashir, manager of the Blood Bank and head of the conference's social committee, said that Kuwait was one of the first countries in the Middle East that adopted blood screening tests to ensure that blood given to patients is not contaminated with Aids. "We succeeded in introducing these tests in all Arab countries and



Dr Momen... awareness

training their staff to do such tests in co-operation with the Arab Consulting and Scientific Authority for Blood Transfusion," he added.

Bashir said that the World Health Organisation has chosen Kuwait to be the headquarters for new centres on blood testing and Aids-related information.

The head of the social committee stressed the importance of having the right information on Aids cases especially in Arab countries which seem to conceal these numbers.

Asked about the number of Aids cases in Kuwait, Dr Al Momen said that according to a

statement by the Minister of Public Health made at a conference last December, 38 cases have been identified.

Dr Momen also said that Kuwait will announce its new law on Aids soon. "The law is being prepared by a panel of legal and medical specialists and in close consultation with the World Health Organisation."

The conference is organised and funded by the National Committee for Aids Prevention, the Ministry of Public Health, the World Health Organisation, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Kuwait University.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received at his residence in Dasmun visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hamid Al Cheikh.

Cheikh handed the Amir a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali in the presence of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Oaimi and the Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Aviation meet

CAIRO, Jan 24, (Kuna): Aviation culture Arab Organisation's Chairman Brigadier Ali Ziko said yesterday the organisation's second conference will be held in Kuwait in the period 3-6 February.

Ziko, speaking to Kuwait News Agency, added the conference to be sponsored by the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Jasssem Al Khorafi will address the challenges of aviation in the 90's.

He pointed out that delegates from the International Aviation and Transportation Association (IATA), the Arab Organisation and Arab Airlines as well as Arab space pioneers will be attending the conference.

Perfume exhibition

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): International Kuwait Fair Company is expected to open its sixth Perfume and Cosmetics Exhibition on February 6th at the Mithraf Fair Grounds.

An official source in the company pointed out that 77 local, foreign and Arab companies, specialised in the manufacturing of and trade in perfumes and cosmetics will be participating for the sixth consecutive year.

The source affirmed that seven foreign specialised companies will be involved in the exhibition that is flooded with large applications from local and foreign companies, noting that 25 companies and agencies are still on the waiting list due to lack of space.

Nazer for Japan

TOKYO, Japan 24, (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Minerals and Acting Planning Minister Hisham Nazer will arrive here tomorrow on a seven-day visit for talks with Japanese officials on bilateral co-operation.

Historians received

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received Secretary General of Arab Historians Union Dr Mustafa Abdul Qader Al Najjar and Sheikh Maymouna Al Sabah.

Merchants optimistic on re-export activity pickup

BUSINESSMEN believe, that the facilities recommended by the Joint Economic Committee report would reflect positively on the intra-regional re-export activities and individual purchase operations, a local daily said.

Auto-tyres and spare parts are foremost in the commodities believed to come in high demand before being followed by timber and other commodities.

The high demand on these two commodities by neighbouring countries would be the reason for precipitating the facilities extension.

ded to businessmen at the airport, particularly amidst growing orders for these two commodities on the local markets by Iraqi dealers, the paper also said.

Peace

Economic observers believe that local dealers are capable of renewing contacts with the Iranian markets as soon as the proposed peace agreement between Iraq and Iran had been signed to "resume" commercial activity.

Observers also say that Iranian dealers have purchased large

quantities of textiles from the local market over the past few weeks, which is a strong indication that the Iranian market still found Kuwait a perfect place to secure its needs and purchase its necessary commodities.

Despite the rise of positive indicators and optimistic views, businessmen in Kuwait are planning to relocate their trade to Dubai, to take advantage of the facilities provided there and the free trade system in the Jebel Ali area which is believed to be the source of US\$5 billion in turnover annually.

Faculty of administrative sciences to be established

AS PER an Amiri Decree, the Faculty of Commerce, Economic and Political Sciences will be abolished and a Faculty of Administrative Sciences will be established, according to Dr Rasha Al Sabah, assistant rector of Kuwait University for society services and information.

The official said that the new faculty will commence operations as of the start of the academic year 1991/1992.

Elucidating, she said that the Political Sciences Department will be annexed to the new faculty for a limited period until the establishment of a Faculty of Human Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences which will also integrate the Faculty of Arts.

The human sciences faculty will have departments of Arabic, English, Philosophy, History and Psychology, while the Faculty of Social Sciences will have departments of Sociology, Social Service, Political Science and Information, she added.

Training

Authorities at the university are studying the feasibility of a project to introduce job training courses for recent graduates of Kuwait University to qualify them to be better equipped in their professional careers. These courses are optional and will be under the supervision of the graduates office of the university in co-operation with the society service centre.

The Amir will patronise the graduation ceremony of outstanding graduates of the university. The other graduates will have a collective festival at the Shuwaikh stadium at the Faculty of Arts.

Exhibition

Dr Rasha pointed out that Kuwait University will host the 3rd Book Exhibit of GCC states between 17 and 21/3/90. The exhibit is held every two years in one of the GCC states. The first was held at the UAE university in 1986, and second at King Saud University in Riyadh in 1988.

The book exhibition will be a chance for all Arab Gulf universities to display their books and publications. The society service centre of the university will also organise a regional conference on literacy eradication between 5 and 7/5/1990. She added that the university has set up a committee headed by her to prepare for the conference.



Bhutan envoy

The Governor of Jahra Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at his office yesterday the Bhutan Ambassador to Kuwait. Talks between the governor and the envoy concentrated on issues of mutual interest.

Crime file

Gunpoint rapist arrested

A MAN accused of trying to rape a woman at her residence by holding her up at gunpoint is being investigated by the public prosecution. According to police sources, the accused called at the residence of the victim and after producing a pistol tried to rape her. However, the woman tricked the man into giving her the pistol and then screamed which brought her immediate neighbours to the scene who apprehended the accused.

DETECTIVES of the Criminal Investigation Department at Ahmadi Governorate arrested a Bangladeshi national identified as Abdul Salam A on charges of theft.

According to official sources, the defendant and two of his roommates Mohammed S. and Mohammed M notified Fintas Police Station that the lock of their room door was broken into and some money and valuable items were stolen.

However, diligent investigations led to the involvement of Abdul Salam who under interrogation confessed to having broken into the room and stolen an amount of KD460 and four watches.

The money was recovered, but the accused claimed that he had sent the four watches to his country.

THE Misdemeanour Court sentenced a man to two months in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation on being convicted of trying to seduce a woman through the telephone.

The victim said that she had been continually propositioned by the accused on the phone to meet with him and she had pointedly told him to desist from calling. Finally, she informed her husband who with the co-operation of security forces set up an "ambush meeting". At the appointed time, the accused arrived, only to fall into the waiting arms of the police.

Prosper calls for stronger Afro-Arab co-operation

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Burkina Faso's Foreign Affairs Minister Prosper Vokouma yesterday called for stronger Afro-Arab co-operation which he said is beneficial to both sides.

Arriving here last night, he told Kuna at the airport his visit was in the framework of Afro-Arab meetings as he chairs the African side and Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad heads the Arab side.

Referring to last fall meeting in New York for the standing committee of the Afro-Arab conference, Vokouma said he and Sheikh Sabah agreed then to keep a close watch of political changes under way in Europe.

"We decided we should meet as to take into consideration all the interests," involved in those changes, he said.

He stressed that his country is seeking stronger ties with Kuwait. "We really mean to reinforce and strengthen our relations," he said.

He believed Afro-Arab co-operation is advantageous to both sides and should be buttressed.

He said he and Sheikh Sabah had agreed that in addition to the standing Afro-Arab committee "we should undertake every effort to organise regular institutionalised meetings of higher bodies as conferences of ministers and heads of state."

The talks between Sheikh Sabah and Vokouma reviewed accomplishments of the committee, which includes 24 members, and touched on ways to bolster Arab-African dialogue in various spheres.

Garba to visit Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 24, (Reuters): The president of the General Assembly, Major-General Joseph Garba of Nigeria, will visit Kuwait from January 27 to 30, his spokesman said yesterday.

He has also been invited to visit a number of other countries but no details were announced.

Garba was Nigeria's UN representative until his recent appointment as minister of state in the office of the Nigerian president. To enable him to complete his year as assembly president, to which he was elected last September, he was also named special envoy to the United Nations.

Nigeria's new UN Representative, Ambassador Ibrahim Agboola Gambia, presented his credentials to secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Investors searching for new set of rules

World stocks dive again as economic woes mount

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): World stock and bond markets plunged today as investors from Tokyo to Wall Street took fright at speculation about political instability in the Soviet Union and volatile interest rates in the West.

Unnerved by the military and political crises boiling up around President Mikhail Gorbachev, investors have pushed major equity markets down as much as nine per cent from records set in an already long forgotten euphoric start to 1990.

Political fears about Eastern Europe have been compounded by jitters over Japanese elections next month and growing pessimism over

chances for cheaper world interest rates as traders watch wage settlements in Western Europe rise and bond price tumble.

Economists believe markets, chasing each other's trends from one continent to the next, overreacted at the start of the year by hitting new peaks on the prospects of fresh business opportunities in the East bloc.

And now, to use the jargon of international monetary affairs, markets have "overshot on the downside."

"The animal spirits of entrepreneurs got carried away... now we are seeing a correction," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute of Inter-

national Affairs in London.

In what appeared to be an attempt to calm markets, US President George Bush said today the United States remained the best place for investment despite signs of weakness in the economy and attractive interest rates abroad.

He told a White House news conference he hoped the Soviet leader would be able to survive the political crisis created by ethnic conflict in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov rejected suggestions Gorbachev could be in danger and said there was no alter-

native to the Kremlin leader and his reform policies.

Economists believe the political upheavals of 1989 have set investors searching for a new set of rules, adding to the turbulence that has characterised the start of the decade.

"We grew up in a world where the rich man had a Swiss bank account, the clever investor was in Japanese equities and the nervous trader went into gold at the time of political turmoil," said Michael Hughes, head of economics and strategy at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities in London.

Gold rose to a 13-month high of

more than \$420 an ounce during trading in London today although the metal has shown little reaction in recent weeks to East bloc events.

The flood out of the Japanese equity market has raised the question whether the patterns of global investment are about to undergo a fundamental change.

Overnight in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong all showed losses, with Japan's 225-share Nikkei Average crashing through the 37,000 barrier and dropping 1.6 per cent.

The Japanese stock market has

retreated 5.5 per cent from its all-time high reached on December 29 last year.

In Europe, the mood was no brighter as London and Frankfurt led a host of smaller stock exchanges down. London's FTSE index of 100 shares is now trading 8.3 per cent down on its January 3 record, while the Faz index in Frankfurt has shed 5.7 per cent from its peak of 776.71 scaled on January 12.

Wall Street picked up the trend as New York began trading today and the Dow Jones industrial average slumped about 60 points to take it some nine per cent below its January 2

peak.

The mid-week gloom was triggered by news after Wall Street's close yesterday of weak bidding in the US bond market for a \$5 billion offering of bonds to finance the government's bail-out of the US savings and loans industry.

The rout in world bond markets has sent average yields on public authority paper in West Germany to 8.04 per cent from 7.80 at the beginning of the year. In Britain the yield on the Treasury's benchmark 11-3.4 per cent "gilts" due in July 2003 has risen to nearly 11 per cent from 10.1 at the start of the year.

Dollar down Tokyo stocks plunge

TOKYO, Jan 24, (UPI): The US dollar fell against the Japanese yen in Tokyo today, closing at 145.80 yen, down 0.53 yen from Tuesday's close.

After opening lower at 145.88 yen, the dollar changed hands between 145.65 yen and 146.06 yen, compared with Tuesday's range of 146.20-146.68 yen.

Dealers said that institutional investors, such as life insurance firms and trading companies, sold the dollar against the yen and the other currencies in anticipation of interest hikes in the Western European countries.

Traders said that market participants retreated from their dollar positions as they had overbought the dollar since the beginning of the New Year.

The central trading rate fell to 146.00 yen from 146.30 yen Tuesday.

UASC signs contract with Korean firm

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Kuna): Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) today signed a contract with the South Korean Hyundai Company for building 5,800 containers.

UASC public relations head Abdul Rahman Al Hmoud said in a statement.

The \$15.5 million contract was signed by UASC deputy board chairman Ibrahim Makki and Hyundai's Kuwait branch head Wun Shu, he said.

The Korean firm is due to deliver the containers in the first half of 1990.

The contract is intended to help the UASC to do away with leased containers and expand its services.

US oil dependence on Gulf to increase

Heating oil prices dip

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (AP): CIA director William Webster yesterday told Congress that US dependence on Gulf oil will more than double in the coming few years, a projection that private analysts called a little too pessimistic.

"Western dependence on Gulf oil will rise dramatically" in the next few years, Webster said in brief remarks on oil imports during testimony before the Senate Armed Forces Committee. He spoke mainly about military and political issues.

Webster said his agency expected US dependence on Gulf oil to rise from 10 per cent of total US supplies last year to "roughly 25 per cent" in a few years. The intelligence chief's projection did not include a specific date.

John Lichtblau, executive director of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation in New York, said in an interview that Webster's forecast was reasonable if he was projecting to 1995. He said "it's a little bit exag-

gerated" if Webster meant the rise to 25 per cent would occur in two or three years.

Lichtblau said his organization was projecting that Gulf oil would account for between 22 and 23 per cent of US supplies by 1995. He and other analysts tie the increase to growing US oil consumption, continuing declines in US oil production and slumping exports by non-Gulf oil exporters such as Britain.

Total US oil imports last year rose to 7.9 million barrels a day. That was a 10-year high and meant 46 per cent of US oil supplies came from foreign sources, according to the American Petroleum Institute, an industry trade association.

Dillard Spriggs, president of the consulting firm Petroleum Analysis Ltd. in New York, said "in five years' time it's quite likely" that the United States will be getting one-quarter of its oil from the Gulf, but not before then.

"That's where it's got to come

from," he said, since no major new oil fields are scheduled to come into production outside the Gulf in the next few years.

The energy department's forecasting office does not publish projections of US dependence on oil from specific regions of the world, said W. Calvin Kilgore, who directs the office. Kilgore nonetheless said he foresees "at least a doubling" of US reliance on the Gulf over the next five years.

Meanwhile with continuing unseasonably warm weather sharply reducing demand, US heating oil prices fell yesterday to their lowest level in nine weeks, dragging crude prices down with them.

Home heating oil for February delivery dropped 1.71 cents to 59.28 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest closing price since Nov 17 and the first settlement price below 60 cents a gallon since Nov 21.

KD deposit rates display firmer tone

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates displayed a firmer tone today amid tight liquidity and perceptions rates would not ease in the near future.

Dealers said a newspaper report yesterday quoting the head of the Kuwait Central Bank as saying the bank would not intervene to push dinar rates down put upward pressure on the already firm market.

A 125 million dinar issue of three and six-month government treasury bills also helped keep liquidity tight.

Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next all firmed to 8-9/16, 3/8 per cent from 8-1/2, 1/4 in the morning.

One-week to one-year also firmed to 8-9/16, 5/16 per cent.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.29146/56 to the dollar from 0.29200/10 on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits displayed a firmer tone today as operators placed riyals in the short-dates ahead of a 1.5 billion riyal government bond issue next week.

The spot riyal firmed to 3.7496/500 to the dollar from quotes of 3.7504/07 on Tuesday.

Agreement signed

Seoul to buy more oil from Riyadh

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 24, (AP): South Korea has agreed to increase crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia to 30 per cent of its annual consumption, officials said today.

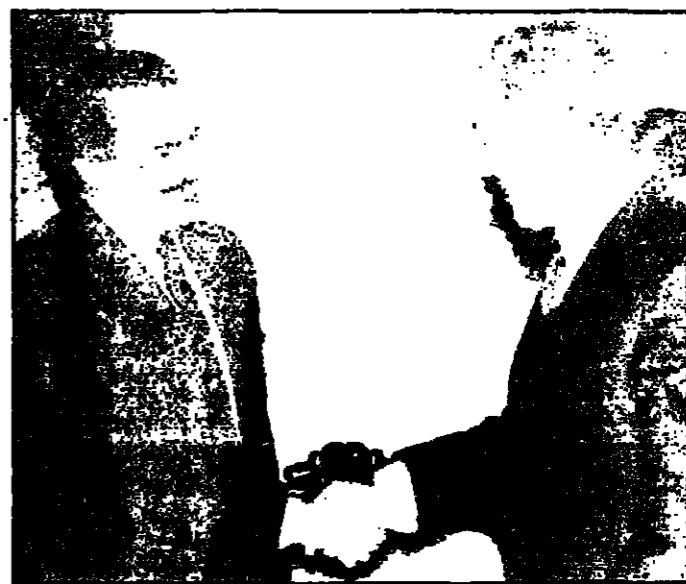
Officials said the agreement was reached in talks between Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham M. Nazer and South Korean Energy-Resources Minister Lee Bong-Suh yesterday.

Nazer came to Seoul on Monday for a four-day visit aimed at boosting sales of Saudi crude and attracting South Korean investment in joint venture petrochemical projects in his country.

South Korea currently buys about 55 per cent of its daily oil requirements, estimated at 720,000 barrels, from the spot market and the remaining 45 per cent under long-term contracts with about a dozen oil-producing countries.

Saudi Arabia's share of the South Korean market was 5 per cent, or 36,000 barrels a day, which Seoul will increase to 30 per cent, or 216,000 barrels a day, the officials said.

The South Korean promise would affect imports from Oman, Iran and other Middle



Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer (left) is met by South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo at the presidential mansion of Blue House. Nazer is visiting Seoul to promote South Korean imports of Saudi oil.

East countries, they said. South Korea imported 262 million barrels of crude oil from Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Brunei and China last year. South Korea's crude oil consumption increases about 10 per cent a year. In another development more than three million tonnes of oil pours into the world's oceans each year from tanker accidents and other discharges, a pollution expert said today.

Fraud charges

Judge orders funds back to US from Israel

NEWARK, New Jersey, Jan 24, (AP): A federal judge has told Eddie Antar, whose Crazy Eddie Inc. electronics chain collapsed amid fraud charges, to bring \$52 million back to US shores.

The Securities and Exchange Commission alleges the sum is part of more than \$60 million Antar gained by selling Crazy Eddie stock at prices falsely inflated by illegal bookkeeping.

US district judge Nicholas H. Politan said yesterday that Antar "was at the head of a scheme" to overstate the company's income from 1985 to 1987, and benefitted from a higher stock price in selling his shares.

The judge stressed that his finding was limited only to a motion filed by the SEC in its insider-trading lawsuit against Antar and violating securities laws, which Politan granted.

He also granted the government's request to require Antar to repatriate \$2 million that he

allegedly had transferred in 1987 to bank accounts in Israel. The money is to be placed under the supervision of a trustee. The government has said Antar transferred as much as \$68 million overseas.

The SEC wants the money on hand in case it wins an insider-trading case and a restitution order against Antar.

Antar, who was raised in the New York Borough of Brooklyn, built his single store there into a 43-outlet chain known through the New York area for its loud-mouthed television advertisements touting "insane prices."

The SEC accused him and other former top management of insider trading and doctoring the company's books. The company went into involuntary bankruptcy in October.

Antar and former officials also face a shareholder's lawsuit in federal court in Brooklyn, and a criminal investigation by the US attorney.

Despite world slump Turkish stocks soar

ISTANBUL, Jan 24, (Reuters): Turkish stocks bucked the global trend today, rising sharply despite a fake share scandal and a bomb attack on the Istanbul Exchange.

The exchange index, now in its fifth bullish week, soared to 3,823.58, up 53 points or 1.4 per cent from Tuesday's close.

Dealers said the market was confident of further foreign investment despite sharp drops on bourses from Tokyo to Wall Street.

Hundreds of people jammed the alleys outside the building to watch electronic displays. Only dealers were allowed inside for security reasons after a man was killed at the entrance late on Tuesday by a bomb he was trying to plant in the exchange.

No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing, which police said could have been politically motivated.

Police announced they had arrested a man suspected of printing and selling fake share certificates of the Cukurova Elektrik firm in a scheme in which thousands of investors may have burned their fingers.

They identified him as Mevlut Yalcinbag, 52, a hotel manager in the southeastern town of Gaziantep.

The firm's shares, among the most actively traded on the exchange, gained five per cent today after 10 per cent rises on Monday and Tuesday.

Dealers fear more than 100 billion lira (\$43 million) in fake Cukurova shares could be on the market.

"Prices are going up like crazy. Bomb attacks, fake share scandals... nobody seems to care," said Naci Erakman, in the crowd outside the exchange.

Shares worth 55 billion lira (\$23 million) changed hands today, compared with an average daily volume of some 200 million lira (\$85,000) a year ago.

\$560m loan for ALBA

GULF Investment Corporation, Arab Banking Corporation, Arab Bank Limited, Bank of Tokyo, Banque Paribas, Industrial Bank of Japan, Mitsubishi Bank, National Commercial Bank, Riyadh bank, Sumitomo Bank and Manufacturers Hanover were awarded the mandate for the \$560 million loan to Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), supported by the government of Bahrain.

The loan is for 10 years with a grace period of 4 years and an availability period of 3.5 years. The loan will finance part of ALBA's major expansion project which comprises the construction of a fourth potline and a new power plant with a total cost of about \$1.4 billion.

In addition to the \$560 million loan, there will be export credits from different countries of about \$475 million which will be offered to the banks participating in the \$560 million loan.

For further information please contact Fouad J. Masrieh at Gulf Investment Corporation, telephone (965) 2431911, telex (496) 44002/23146 GICORP KT, telefax (965) 2448894/2408006.

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AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

INDO-ARAB RELATIONS

Growing friendship

By G. Srinivasan

INDIA and the Arab countries have been enjoying friction-free and friendly relations for several decades. India has always been a staunch supporter of the Palestine cause and Arab rights and it left no stone unturned in bringing into focus the basic rights for Palestinians in their just cause. India was one of the first countries to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

India's economic relations with Arab countries had been growing over the years. A large number of Indian experts and skilled labour have been working in Arab countries and assisting in their development efforts. Following the oil boom in West Asian countries in the early 1970s, India's contribution to Arab countries' development in terms of supply of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower was too important to be ignored. However, in the 1980s there were some setbacks in the economic relations between India and Arab countries as the latter had drastically pruned investment in new projects owing to decline in oil prices and the consequent setback to surplus these countries used to enjoy. The boom in construction and development projects in Arab countries was also on the wane.

Scope

Realising the potential for promoting economic relations between India and Arab countries, an Indo-Arab chamber of commerce had been mooted recently to provide a focal point for Indian and Arab businessmen to diversify the trade and investment opportunities in each other's country. The proposed chamber which is to be based in India, will have a balanced structure having representation from both India and Arab business. It is proposed that the chamber will have an Indian president and the chief executives will be from the Arab side.

The chairman of the Indo-

Arab Joint Business Council, K.K. Modi said recently that the emerging scenario after the Iran-Iraq war provided Indian businessmen opportunities for tapping the Arab market and also setting up joint ventures. Undoubtedly, it was a recognised fact that in view of the growing strong relations between India and all Arab countries, the scope for economic co-operation is an ongoing process that needs to be constantly kept in view. In order to bring this into fruition what needs to be done is better promotion, creation of more knowledge and of confidence in India's capabilities ensuring quality control, efficiency in delivery of goods on time schedule and also completion of projects in time, facilities for shipping, proper packaging and attractive cataloguing particularly in Arab.

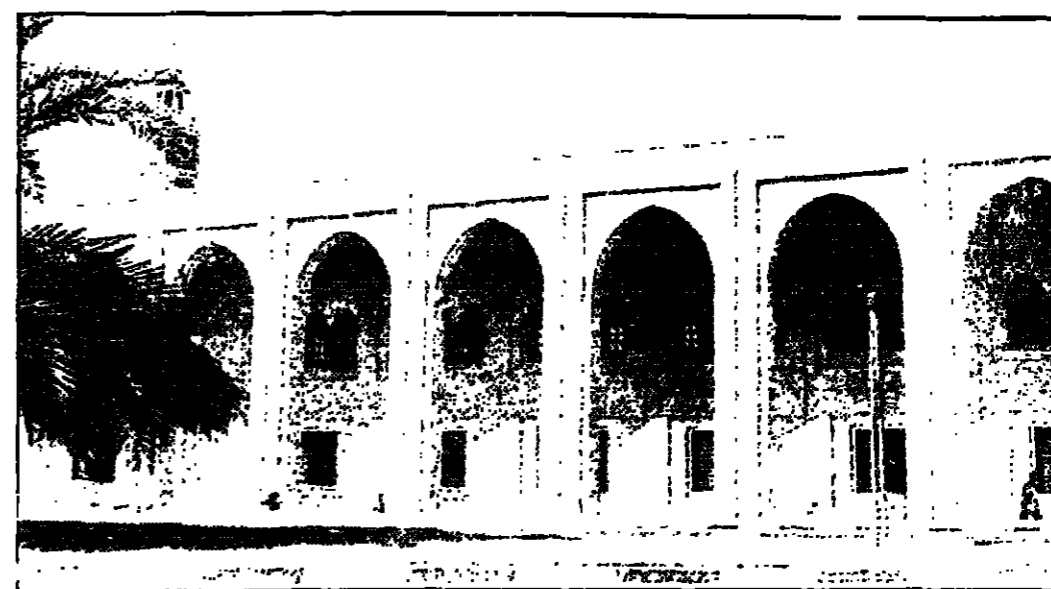
The joint venture deal finalised in October 1988 in Dubai which might be the forerunner to a long-term programme of establishing energy-intensive projects abroad for a captive Indian market. The famed Jafza Free Zone (JAFZ) is to be the site of a plant worth roughly Rs85 million (\$4.8 million) to manufacture 500 tonnes of phosphoric acid plus that of sulphuric acid at 1400 tonnes a day is to be brought by India for 10 years from the time the plant goes into production, now scheduled for 1991. Gujarat Marmada Valley Fertiliser Corporation (GNVFC) will hold 20 per cent equity in the project and the Government of the Emirate of Dubai would likely to approve its own 20 per cent holding in the venture, registered in the UK as Emirates Marmada Industries (EMI).

On the trade front, Saudi Arabia remains one of India's six major trading partners in the region, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, Oman, and

Qatar in the Gulf region. The main items of India export to these countries include rice, textile, yarn, vegetable and fruit, fish, manufactures of metals, machinery and transport equipment, iron and steel and spices, garments and clothing, accessories, jute manufacturing, tea and coffee, tobacco, rubber, mutton, pearls and semi precious stones, chemicals and related products. As for India's imports go, petroleum and crude oil remain the largest in value and in quantity though India's rapid self-reliance in crude oil production has of late minimised its dependence on the oil front.

Besides trade, there are already a score of joint ventures in different Arab countries. The largest number are in UAE comprising such ventures as aluminium and architectural products, cylinders, sulphuric acid, civil and mechanical engineering construction and trading, manufacturing of ice-cream machines, container and steel drum plants, water well drilling and other related activities.

All told, India and the Arab countries have been emerging as partners in progress. At a time when the North-South dialogue between rich and poor countries is at a stalemate, the growing trade relations on a robust scale between India and Arab countries reflect not only a right step in South-South trade but also testimony to the historic ties that bind these countries. India's stance of non-alignment and its consistent support to the Arab cause in general and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in particular had conclusively demonstrated to the world that affinities of mind stem not only from economic and commercial considerations but also because of cultural and historical factors.



India has contributed to the development of Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

PETROLEUM

Hundred Years of Oil

THE Department of Posts brought out a special postage stamp in single colour on December 29, 1989 in the denomination of sixty paise on "A Hundred Years of Oil".

The Indian petroleum industry completed hundred years in 1989 because oil in commercial quantities was discovered in Digboi, Assam, in 1889.

Drilling was started Digboi well No 1 in September 1889. The first gush of oil was struck a month later at 178 feet and in November 1890 the well was completed to a depth of 662 feet as an oil producer. A total of a thousand wells were drilled in Digboi. The oilfield, being operated by Oil India Limited, is still producing, making it perhaps the only continuously producing oilfield of this vintage in the world.

Oil in the Digboi oilfield is in very shallow zones. Digboi oilfield is quite interesting. An elephant working for the Assam Railways and Trading Company used to go through the jungles carrying logs. One day when the elephant returned to the camp, oil was noticed on its feet. His masters retraced the elephant's steps into the forest and found bubbles of oil seeping from the ground. "Dig, boy, dig!" exclaimed the Englishman to his workers in his excitement on seeing the oil. Thus the name Digboi found a place in the petroleum history of India.

The petroleum industry has come a long way in these 100 years. Today, it is hardly any sector of the economy which is not directly or indirectly affected by the availability and prices of petroleum products. The crucial role of this industry in the economic life of the nation has led to a step up of activities in the petroleum sector in recent times. The country presently produces about 32 million tonnes of oil and 12,700 million cubic metres of natural gas per year. Together with imported crude the country's 12 operating refineries process refine about 50 million tonnes of crude oil per year. Additional capacity of about 12 million tonnes per year will be added when the refineries at Karnal, Mangalore and Assam are completed shortly.

The oil sector provides for about 50 per cent of the commercial energy needs of the country. With the same spirit of pioneerism that discovered Digboi oilfield a hundred years ago, exploration efforts are being intensified, production of oil and gas being accelerated and a general improvement is being brought about to energy management systems.

In the 100th year of the Petroleum industry which coincides with the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the oil sector is poised to execute the vision of Panditji in making India a progressive and developed nation of the world.

President's Message

Indian President R. Venkateswariah will give a traditional greeting. The President will give a message to the Indian nation on the eve of the 41st Republic Day of India. The presidential address is customary.



A new era

Prime Minister V.P. Singh led a crusade against corruption and galvanised people to fight against wrongdoings. Indians gave him a mandate in the elections held in November last year, and he became the premier with promises of an honest government. He ushered in a new era with an open government and started to tackle problems in earnest after taking office.

Singh, the mild-mannered poet and painter who engineered the fall of the modern world's oldest political dynasty, was born to be king. Instead, he is India's prime minister, leading

the country's first minority government under the banner of the National Front.

Singh, the erstwhile king of the tiny northern region of Manda, is now ruling a much larger kingdom — a country of 880 million people. The 58-year-old prime minister has played a part in Indian politics since the early 1970s, but image has never been important for him. "I have always taken the stand that we have to shift from personal appeal to issues. That is the way democracy matures," he said.

After Singh entered politics, he became a loyal member of the Congress Party, hand-

picked and groomed for public service by Indira Gandhi. In 1984, he became the finance minister, initiating sweeping economic reforms, allowing foreign investments and overseeing an awakening of a stagnating economy that is growing about 5 per cent a year.

In the 41st year of independence, Singh has promised to clean up the government and weed out corruption even as tackles the tough challenge of quelling separatist violence in the states of Punjab and Kashmir.

MESSAGE

A proud tradition continues

Message of the Ambassador of India on the occasion of the 41st Republic Day of India — January 26th, 1990

IT gives me great pleasure to greet fellow Indians on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day of India.

On January 26, 1990, India completes 40 years as a Republic. This is an occasion for celebration and rejoicing. It was on this day in 1950 that the people of India gave themselves a democratic and secular Constitution which sought to secure Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity for its citizens. The fundamental rights of all Indian citizens are guaranteed in the Constitution, irrespective of caste, race or religion.

During the last 40 years, nine General Elections have been held in India; the last one was in November, 1989. India is the largest democracy in the world and we can be truly proud of our record of having changed governments through peaceful means by utilising the ballot.

The past year has been a year of achievements in different aspects of the life of our country. There has been considerable progress made in economic and social development and our economy has registered good growth. There have been several accomplishments in the fields of science, technology and culture.

We have continued to follow the policy of non-alignment which seeks to build bridges of friendship with all nations of the world. Our principled foreign

policy is based on national consensus. The new government has announced that it will seek to further improve relations with our neighbours. The Government has also announced that India will continue to extend support to the Palestinian cause and to the ending of apartheid in South Africa.

Relations between Kuwait and India have been strong and friendly over the past several centuries. Recently, we have signed an agreement with Kuwait for a cultural exchange programme and I hope that this will be implemented successfully so as to enhance the understanding between the two peoples in the fields of culture, arts and education. Similarly, I look forward to a further strengthening of the existing relationship in other areas.



Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Budhiraja

political, economic, commercial, tourism, etc. I am confident that the very friendly relations which exist between the Indian community in Kuwait and the people of Kuwait will continue to flourish in the future also.

JAI HIND

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DISARMAMENT

Striving for a nuclear-free world

By R.C. Rajamani

PEACE and disarmament are part of India's ethos from ancient times. Lord Buddha and later, Emperor Ashoka were two of the most glowing examples, personifying India's stand for a world without violence and a world without war. The tradition was continued down the ages and a landmark was reached when Mahatma Gandhi won freedom for India in a largely non-violent struggle which has few parallels in the annals of the world.

Independent India has since carried on with its war against all wars and has consistently taken up arms against arms, so to say.

In its foreign policy, India has accorded the highest priority to peace, disarmament and development. The unfortunate and ominous advent of nuclear weapons made a qualitative difference to the international security environment. India has consistently highlighted the catastrophic features of these weapons and has voiced its concern over the perils nuclear arsenals cause to humanity. India's stand has been that the highest priority in disarmament must be accorded to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Right from independence, India has taken a number of initiatives on the issue at the United Nations and other international forums. As early as in 1948, India proposed limiting the

use of atomic energy to peaceful purposes only and the elimination of atomic weapons from national arsenals.

Threat

Two years later, India drew the attention of the United Nations to the existence of large stocks of armaments and their unchecked growth, which, it pointed out, besides being a threat to international peace and security, led to the diversion of human and economic resources. India argued that the resources needed to be made available for raising the standards of living in the developing world and recommended the creation of a United Nations Peace Fund through a progressive reduction of armaments worldwide and channelling the savings into the fund.

In 1954, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made his historic appeal for a "stand-still agreement," whereby all testing of nuclear weapons would be immediately suspended pending an agreement on their complete prohibition.

In 1956, India presented a memorandum to the Disarmament Commission suggesting certain initial steps for suspension of arms production. These included cessation of experimental nuclear explosions, dismantling of at least some nuclear weapons as a measure to reverse the arms race, declaration by nations not to manufacture any more nuclear weapons and prohibition of export or transfer of

nuclear weapons to other countries by nuclear weapons states.

In 1959, India proposed inclusion of an item on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly for "suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests."

A year later, India along with 11 other nations submitted a resolution (adopted unanimously) in the General Assembly, which contained directive principles that could form the basis of an agreement on general and complete disarmament. It was a matter of justifiable pride and satisfaction for India that the Joint Statement of Agreed Principles issued by the US and USSR in 1961 conformed to a large extent to the formulation submitted in that draft introduced by India.

Initiative

The cause of disarmament was espoused not just by the government but by individual citizens of eminence and public organisations. The elder statesman, C. Rajagopalachari, at the age of 82, in the early 1960s, undertook a visit to the USA — his only trip abroad — to confer with President John F. Kennedy on the subject of disarmament. The young Kennedy was all ears as the venerable Rajaji held forth on the urgent need for a nuclear-free world.

India took the initiative in the United Nations in 1964 to place the item "non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" on its agenda.

In 1965, India, along with seven other countries, submitted a joint memorandum for achieving a solution to the problem of proliferation of nuclear arms.

The memorandum called for negotiation of an international treaty based, among others, on the principles that (a) the treaty should be devoid of any loopholes which might permit nuclear on non-nuclear powers to proliferate, directly or indirectly, nuclear weapons in any form; (b) it should embody an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations of nuclear and non-nuclear powers; and (c) it should be a step towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

These principles constituted the basis of Resolution 2028 (XX) adopted on November 19, 1965 by the General Assembly with an overwhelming majority of supporters including the UK, USA and the Soviet Union.

In 1978, India repeated its appeal for a total prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and in 1982, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed a five-point programme for achieving complete disarmament within an agreed time-frame. At this session, of the General Assembly specially devoted to disarmament, India also tabled the text of a draft international treaty prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In the same year, India proposed a resolution on the freeze of nuclear weapons manufacture, combined with a cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes.

Action plan

At the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1983, the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi proposed an Action plan for achieving a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world order. The most essential feature of the plan is the achievement of the objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2010 at the latest. The action plan, seen as a logical culmination of the policies pursued by India over the years, also contains a package of measures that structurally link the entire range of issues currently on the world disarmament agenda.

At this session, India presented a working paper on new technologies and qualitative arms race. The paper recommended banning of technological missions clearly designed for developing new weapons and drawing up guidelines in respect of new technologies with potential military applications. Another working paper by India was about the disposal of warheads on nuclear missiles covered by the INF Treaty. It recommended that both the USA and the USSR be urged not to recycle the fissile material

released (as a result of the Treaty) into other nuclear weapons and place it under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. "At the same time," the paper said, "there should be a freeze on further production of fissile material for weapons purposes."

An international non-governmental conference, "Towards a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World" was held in New Delhi from November 14 to 16, 1988. It constituted one of the first important events marking the commencement of the centenary celebrations of Jawaharlal Nehru, a great champion of the cause of disarmament. The conference, in which most of the important international peace movements and disarmament related organisations were represented, unanimously adopted a joint statement endorsing India's action plan. The statement contains a number of new disarmament ideas and proposals, many of which were put forward for the first time in an international gathering.

India's untiring efforts to achieve complete disarmament are bound to continue with the new government taking over recently. One of the last functions performed by the outgoing External Affairs Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, was his October address at the U.N. General Assembly on the subject of disarmament.



Peace and disarmament

Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent struggle won freedom for India and since then such statesmen as Nehru and others have given high priority to peace and disarmament.

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JOINT VENTURES

Building a reputation

By G. Srinivasan

THE Indian construction industry has had a magnificent past over the centuries, as evidenced by the historical structures of exquisite workmanship. Coupled with these, the rich cultural heritage and diversity had enabled the industry to achieve a unique standing internationally. Now, in modern times, construction companies in India, by blending state-of-the-art technology with traditional skills, have conclusively demonstrated their competence in executing highly sophisticated projects in civil engineering.

India made a dramatic entry into the international construction scene in the 1970s in the wake of the oil boom and construction explosion in the West Asian countries. Between 1975 and 1982, Indian construction companies obtained overseas projects amounting to Rs 50 billion (Rs 100 = 6 US dollars). And in 1988, India secured construction contracts of Rs 35 billion, involving 39 projects of colossal dimensions. Of these, the maximum value of projects was in Malaysia where Indian companies executed projects worth over Rs 1.2 billion.

Among the prestigious projects handled by Indian construction companies abroad are the Karthi Water Supply Scheme in Iraq (Rs 8.45 billion), the turnkey construction of sections 3 and 4 Musayyab-Karbala-Samawa Railway Project in Iraq (Rs 3.2 billion), Wadhi Ghan Dam Project in Libya (Rs 1.01 billion) super market complexes in Doha (Qatar), construction of airport terminal building complex at Abu Dhabi and the Muscat palace complex.

Within the country, Indian companies have been handling the most sophisticated projects, whether it is in the sphere of buildings, roads, bridges, airport development or rail line construction, structural steel fabrication, hydro-electric projects or dam construction.

Although Indian construction companies had executed projects abroad, they have also taken

pains to acquire latest technology for optimum results. Thus co-operation between the business organisation of different nations has become imperative. With India in the vanguard of the co-operative efforts, Indian construction companies have been collaborating in joint ventures with European, Japanese and American companies on projects in India as well as in other countries.

Experience

What is particularly noteworthy about Indian construction companies working abroad is that the experience has exposed them to the highly competitive and technologically sophisticated international construction business. It is significant to note that the Government of India, on its part, has responded positively to project exports in a variety of ways. With a view to promoting exports, projects and consultancy services, the Government has taken several steps which include (i) grant of project assistance to the tune of 10 per cent of net foreign exchange earnings from the service portion of the contracts; (ii) market development assistance for reimbursement of 50 per cent of cost of preparation and submission of bids; and (iii) market development assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by consultancy firms.

India's large reservoir of highly qualified personnel in the technical, managerial and financial disciplines has enabled construction companies to offer an attractive package of terms to potential overseas clients and, above all, their personnel working abroad have been able to adapt themselves easily to the various socio-cultural and geographical environments where they work.

While in the project exports undertaken by them the Indian construction companies have distinguished themselves in the highly competitive global market, Indian joint venture projects too have made their mark abroad through hard work

and dedication to the chosen tasks. Joint ventures do not include mere movement of capital between countries such as from the affluent West to the developing countries. Joint ventures constitute skills for expansion of productive capacity, trade and technological capability beside the mobilisation of resources. Indian joint ventures in operation are currently dispersed over 38 countries. As at the end of March 1989, 186 joint ventures were in operation and out of these 152 were in production, and the other 34 under production. Amazingly, over 82 per cent of the joint ventures are concentrated in 10 countries, Malaysia (22), Singapore (14), Nigeria (13), Indonesia (11), United Kingdom (11), West Asia (6), Sri Lanka (8), United Arab Emirates (8), Thailand (8) and Kenya (7).

Benefits

The benefits accruing to India from the successful ventures abroad are in the form of dividends and other entitlements such as fees for technical know-how, engineering and management fees. Some joint ventures also declared bonus shares from time to time which exceeded Rs 123 million. The issue of bonus shares has enlarged Indian investment and enhanced the capacity of the units to remit larger amounts by way of dividend in the future.

The benefits that have accrued to the country from joint ventures abroad in the form of dividends, know-how and other fees were Rs 512.6 million. Some of the joint ventures abroad are doing exceedingly well such as the paper project in Kenya, the synthetic fibre and the carbon black plant in Thailand, the steel tube project in Singapore and the light engineering complex in Nigeria.

Both joint ventures abroad and Indian construction companies have earned a distinct reputation for themselves in the competitive international markets, thereby showing the emerging skill and sophistication of Indian industries in various fields. — (PTI Feature)



Indian construction companies are working in several countries in the Gulf.

AGRICULTURE

Agro-based industry gets top priority

By K.R. Sudhaman

TO a visitor India appears a paradox. On the one hand, it is among the top ten industrialised nations of the world and, on the other, prevalence of abject poverty in large sections of the population places it among the poor ones. This contradiction, which has created "two Indias", can well be attributed to a situation where developmental planning has not been able to keep pace with factors like rising population, runaway inflation and a severe resource crunch over the years.

The new National Front government under Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is well aware of these debilitating effects and has therefore, immediately on assuming office, announced that 50 per cent of plan allocations would henceforth be made for rural development and agriculture — the two most crucial sectors of the Indian economy.

As an expression of its intentions, the government has, for the first time in independent India, entrusted the agriculture portfolio, to its deputy prime minister, Devi Lal, the former Chief Minister of one of India's agriculturally most developed states, Haryana, is committed to rural development and farming. Moreover, the very fact that a deputy prime minister holds the agriculture portfolio, vests the ministry with a degree of prestige and authority.

Another pointer to the thinking of the new government is the appointment of former Karnataka chief minister Ramkrishna Hegde as the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission. While the prime minister is ex-officio the chairman of the



commission, the deputy chairman is the active head of this vital state agency. Hegde has made it clear in his maiden press conference in December, that "agriculture and agro-based industries would get top priority in the Eighth Five-Year Plan" which would be implemented from April 1990.

Today, agriculture in India accounts for nearly 30 per cent of its gross national product and employs about 60 per cent of the population. It is the biggest private enterprise with more than three-fourths of land holdings under two hectares. Of the cultivated area, more than two-thirds is unirrigated.

Naturally, this has led to an inordinately high dependence on rain-fed (dryland) agriculture. The states of West Bengal,

Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh depend on these forms of agriculture. They are also the states with the highest incidence of poverty. In turn, this has led to large-scale indebtedness among small and marginal farmers.

But there is a silver lining too. The green revolution in the sixties and subsequent improvements in Indian farming conditions have resulted in a tremendous boost in the per hectare yield of agricultural produce in the country. This year foodgrains production is expected to cross the targeted 170 million tonnes and touch an all-time high of 175 million tonnes. In particular, kharif (monsoon) crop,

despite poor rainfall this year, is expected to reach a record 98 million tonnes.

Clearly, the benefits of such phenomenal progress, have not percolated down to the small and marginal farmers. Rural indebtedness is high and the purchasing power of the farmer continues to be low. Some relief on this is expected to be provided by the government in keeping with its election manifesto which had promised to "write off the loans of small and marginal farmers, cumulatively amounting to about Rs 13,000 crore (\$78 million)". Prime Minister V.P. Singh has reiterated that his party cannot go back on its election promises.

The previous government under Rajiv Gandhi had tried to tide over the problem by reduc-

ing interest rates on loans taken by farmers to as low as between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent. Refinancing facilities were also provided to co-operative institutions under a special Foodgrains Production Programme in 14 major states. Under this, productivity was sought to be increased in five crops — rice, wheat, maize, gram and pulses — through improved farming technology, assuring supply of agricultural inputs and efficient water management.

Problems

Another serious problem that has dogged successive governments since independence is raising the growth rate of agriculture to the same level as that of industry. Despite four decades of planning, food production (in terms of rupee value) has consistently fallen back in relation to industry. Furthermore, over 80 per cent of foodgrains procurement in the country for the public distribution system comes from just three States — Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

To step up the growth rate in other regions, certain agro-climatic specific measures were recommended by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Accordingly, the country has been divided into 15 zones for the purposes of evolving specific farm practices and cropping patterns suitable to local conditions.

One redeeming feature about Indian agriculture is that there is no starvation among the people. Despite the worst drought of the century in 1987, people had enough to eat. India did not have to go around with a begging bowl as in the sixties when adverse climatic conditions had created crop failure during several years.

From a foodgrains importing country, India has emerged as an exporting country earning nearly Rs 2,500 crore in foreign exchange every year. All this augurs well. But a lot more needs to be done. For as Hegde himself put it: "Before we move to the twenty-first century, the vast gap between the two Indias must be bridged!"



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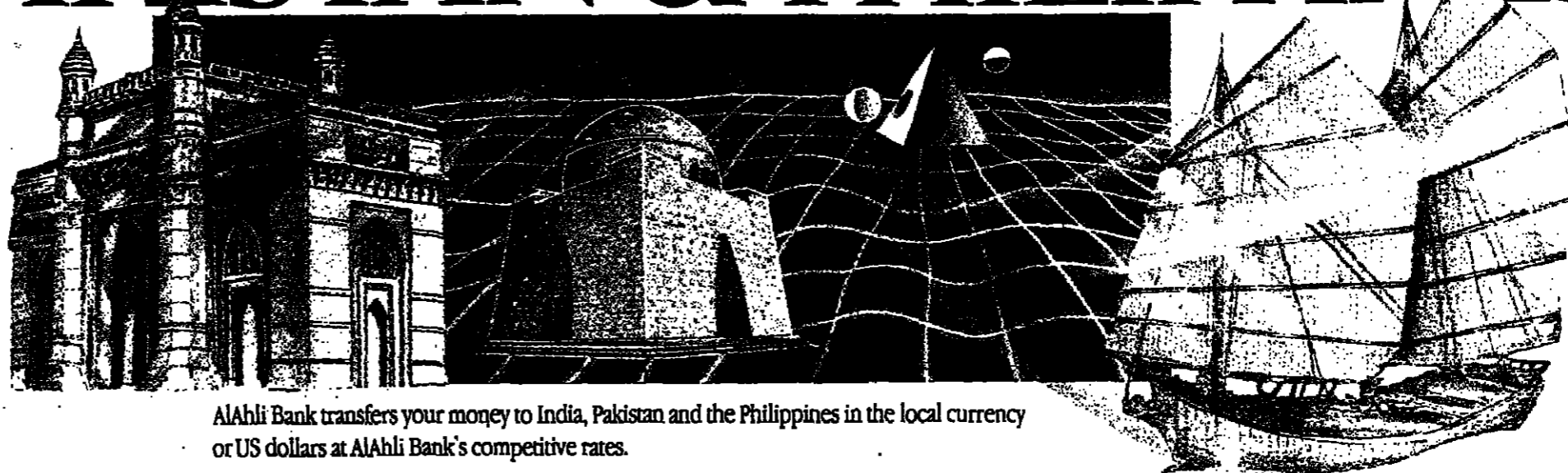
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WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

Facing challenges

By Nirmala George

THE past two decades have seen a remarkable increase in global concerns over the deterioration in the world's environment. India too, has not lagged in its efforts to protect and preserve its environment and halt the degradation of its land, water and air. Forty-two years after the country gained independence, India still faces myriad problems. The country's population of nearly 800 million is expected to touch the 972 million mark by the turn of the century. The combination of wide-spread poverty and a galloping population directly dependent on natural resources for their food, fuel and shelter, takes a heavy toll on the environment.

By the end of the sixties, India realised that measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to pull them out of the clutches of poverty could have a devastating impact on the environment. Major irrigation projects and dams which brought water to the parched fields, eventually led to the salin-

ity of large tracts of land. Improvements in roads and communications also provided easy access to the country's forest and led to faster deforestation. The growth of industries, especially around the urban metropolises, contributed to air and water pollution. Were our developmental objects askew and will we end up paying an enormous price in the form of an degraded ecology?

This question arose as early as in the late sixties and in the years that followed. Environmental concerns are increasingly being taken into consideration from the planning stage onwards when any major industrial or irrigation project is set up.

One of the most serious environmental problems facing the country today is the loss of its forest cover. In a developing country, the importance of forests in sustaining the lives of the poor, in providing them with food, fuel, shelter and a means of livelihood, is incalculable.

Many experts fear that India may have already gone beyond the threshold of tolerable levels in the loss of its forests. The coun-

try's forest cover requirement, determined at 33 per cent of its land area, today had reached the perilously low level of 11 per cent of the total land area. Forests are also crucial for Indian agriculture as they prevent soil erosion, floods, siltation of dams, desertification and drought.

Resources

Forest policy till very recently concentrated on the productive aspects of forests with the rich tropical cover being viewed as a source of revenue, timber and fuel wood. India has nearly 100 million poor people who lived off forests. Traditionally this was a symbiotic relationship with no damage being done to its ecological role. With the increase in human and cattle population, forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Nearly 1.5 million hectares are felled each year for timber, paper and packaging industries. The trend, if not halted, will spell disaster for the country.

India's chief water resource is its network of 14 major rivers and nearly a hundred medium and minor rivers. In early times the

thick forests that covered large parts of the country, served to hold back rainwater which falls during the four-month monsoon. With deforestation, the rainfall patterns are varying each year and the soil's capacity to retain water is restricted. The annual rainfall leads to floods in some parts, while too little rainfall cause drought conditions. Deforestation is also responsible for the washing away of precious top soils which end up silting the rivers and reservoirs. Environmental degrading has led to a sharp increase in the area prone to flood damage increasing from 19 million hectares in 1960 to over 50 million hectares in recent years.

While industrialisation was given due priority by the country's policy planners as an instrument of development and thereby, to eradicate poverty, the polluting effects of certain industries were overlooked. Effluents discharged from industries, and human wastes from the sewage systems of most towns are discarded untreated into the nearest rivers. It has been estimated that 70 per cent of all the available

water in India is polluted, and a recent survey found that nearly 80 million workdays are lost annually due to water-related diseases. Cleaning up the rivers and lakes and restoring their water quality is a task that requires urgent attention. Tough legislation to prevent and control water pollution was passed in 1974, there have been very few instances of action being taken against offenders. In many cases the worst offenders are the city municipal bodies which are responsible for sewage disposal.

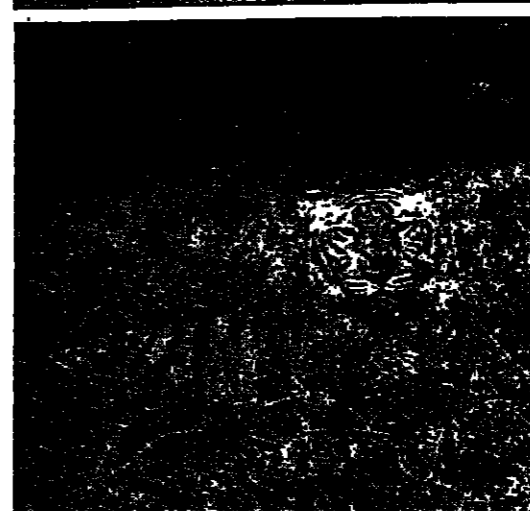
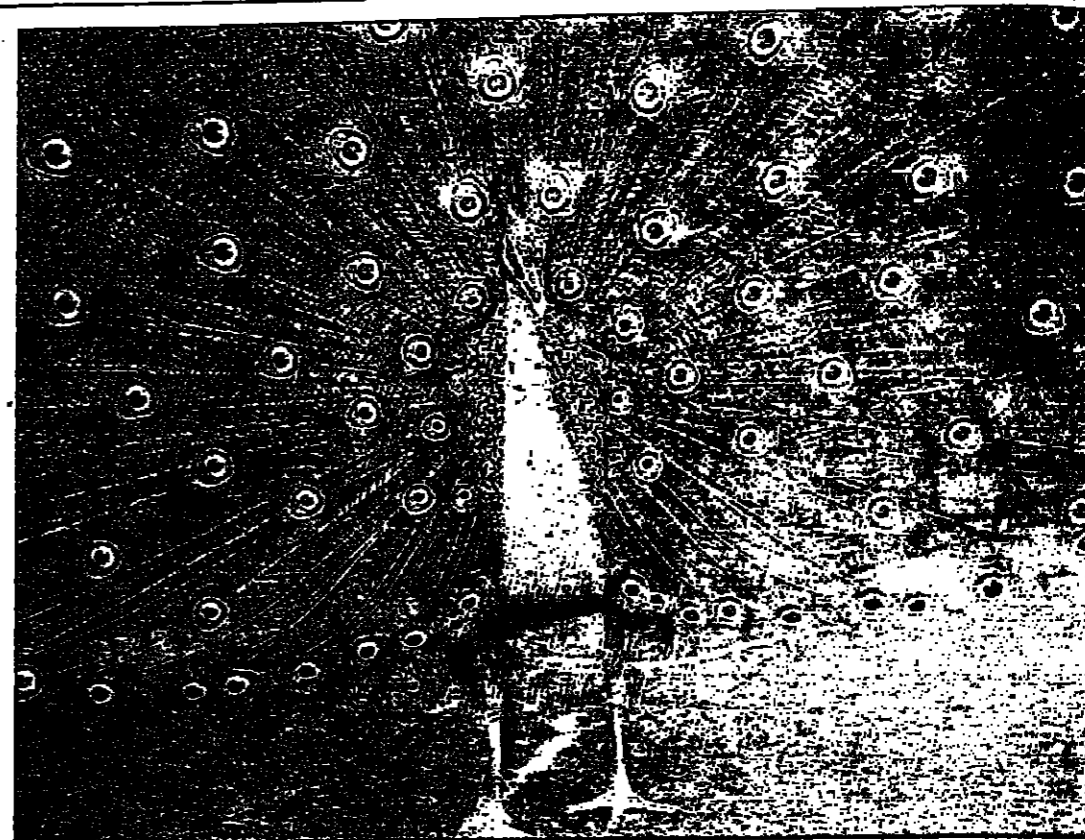
Pollution

Air pollution too is a growing evil especially in the cities. With the rapid rate of urbanisation and the acceleration in industrial growth, this form of pollution is expected to rise. Legislation to prevent air pollution was enacted in 1981, but has not proved to be effective.

India is a treasure house of biological diversity, boasting over 75,000 animal species and 45,000 plant species. The subcontinent is home to 340 mammals over 2,100 birds and some 2,000 fishes. Its wealth of flora includes 13,000 flowering plants. The snowy reaches of the Himalayas are the domain of the Hangul or Kashmir stag, Himalayan bears and the endangered snow leopard. The foothills and plains of the Terai region in northern India are the abode of tigers, elephants, leopards and many species of deer. Peninsular India and the humid tropical forests of the Western Ghats play host to the India elephant, rare monkeys, many bird and reptile species. The wet grasslands of north-eastern India abound in swamp deer and wild buffaloes. The great Indian rhinoceros and tigers are also found in the eastern state. The Andaman and Nicobar islands which form the last contiguous tract of low-lying tropical rain forests are rich in rare flora and fauna.

Among the greatest challenges facing the country is to preserve this diversity from the onslaught of human activity. Sixty-seven national parks and 394 wild life sanctuaries, covering four per cent of the total geographical area of the country have been declared natural parks where the entire ecosystem is being conserved in order to protect endangered species and their natural habitats. Project Tiger, a programme begun in 1973 to conserve the Indian tiger, has been a phenomenal success, with the number of tigers in the country having doubled. Seventeen tiger reserves, totally covering 26,643 sq kilometres have been established in 13 states under the programme.

Apart from protecting individual species efforts are also underway to preserve their habitats and total ecosystems are being restored to health. While 13 potential sites have been identified for setting up biosphere



The peacock's vanity is proverbial and its feathers unmatched for beauty; once an endangered species the tiger can be seen in many sanctuaries; a herd of sambar, the last of the Asiatic lions in Sasan Gir sanctuary.

reserves, four have already been established. Seven per cent of the world's mangrove forests are in India and an action plan has been launched to protect these forests from human encroachments. Similar efforts are also afoot to protect the wetlands and the unique ecosystems of the Andamans and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep islands.

India has long record of conservation and ancient Indian history gives numerous instances of entire communities giving their lives to protect and prevent the killing of animals or the felling of forests. One of the most successful conservation movements was the Chipko movement in the Garhwal region of the Himalayan foothills where peo-

ple hugged trees and refused to let them be cut. Post-independence India has also taken up the issue of conservation and participated actively in global efforts to tackle environmental problems. India has articulated the concerns of the developing countries in the debate on global warming and depletion of the ozone layer. New Delhi has been a signatory to numerous international treaties and conventions on protecting the environment, including agreements on Antarctica, whaling, prevention of sea pollution and on the prevention of trade in endangered species. At the October 1989 Commonwealth summit, India put forward a proposal for an 18 billion

dollar "Planet Protection Fund," which would help the less developed countries to adopt modern "environment-friendly" technologies in their developmental process.

If the present trend of environmental degradation at the global level is not halted and reversed, the scenario in the next century could entail floods, droughts, a rise in sea levels, acid rain, marine and air pollution, land degradation and the extinction of many animal and plant species. Delays in taking timely action to halt this deterioration will result in permanent and irreversible damage. India needs to redouble its efforts, both at the national and international levels to prevent such an eventuality.

Together
Towards
TomorrowGreetings to the
People of India
on the Republic Day

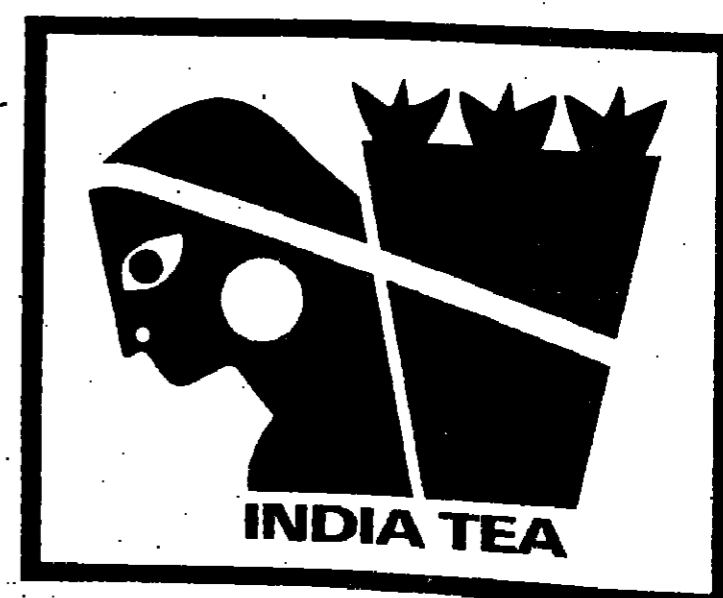
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back to the ancient period.
Above: "Hour of Cowdust,"
miniature from 18th century
Rajasthan

TRIVANDRUM

Gateway to emerald kingdom

TRIVANDRUM, the capital of Kerala, is built atop seven hills near the sea. Situated near the southernmost point of the country, the city enjoys an enviable location: it is a convenient starting point for excursions to the lush green interiors, palm fringed lakes and inland lagoons — the homeland, along with other southern states, of the old Dravidian civilisation of India.

City of Anantha
This attractive little city owes its name to an ancient legend according to which present day 'Trivandrum' is a derivation from the word 'Thiru-Anantha-puram'... the city of Anantha. It is believed to be the abode of the sacred serpent Anantha, on which the preserver of the holy Hindu Trinity, Lord Vishnu, is said to recline.

The Padmanabhaswamy temple which is dedicated to this legend comes as a rather delightful surprise to the visitor. Legend stands transformed into stone, emphasising the vitality and energy of a people who have expressed their religious beliefs with such infinite fervour.

Typically Dravidian in style, the temple has enormous gate towers called Gopurams rising seven storeys high and heavily decorated with sculpted figures. Shrines and hallways decorated with fine stone sculptures stand within its walls. Sacred to Hindus since antiquity the temple which was built in 1733 AD by Raja Marthanda Varma, stands reflected in a pool of silver water.

This beautiful Hindu temple lends an interesting note to the seaside city of Trivandrum, which in its traditional environs has the statistical fact that it is the capital of a state with the highest density of population and highest rate of literacy in India.

A collection of bronzes
A dominant building in the city is the hurretted structure standing on the crest of the public gardens near Observatory Hill. This is the Napier Museum which has a varied collection of bronzes. A model of the "Tara-warrior", a large house that holds the living quarters of the Nair joint family is an unusual item of special interest, since Kerala is the home of the 'Nairs', a class of warrior people rather like the 'Samurai' of Japan.

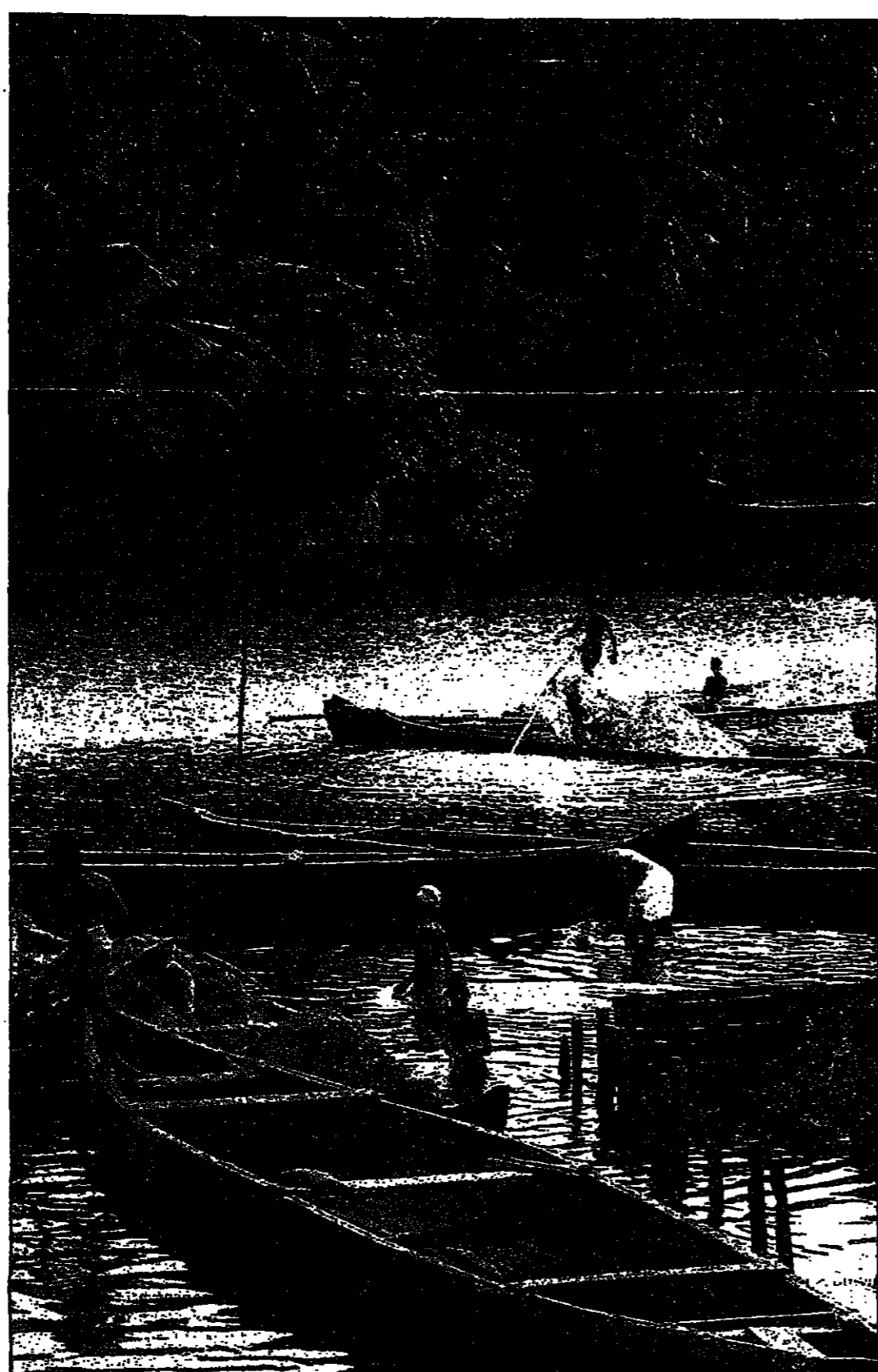
The Sri Chithra Art gallery, within the precincts of the museum, has an excellent collection of paintings — from the Rajput, Tanjore and Moghul period, a few from the Ajanta and Bagh caves, some interesting works from Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan and Japanese schools, and a number of paintings of the great doyen, Raja Ravi Varma, who contributed greatly to the development of art in the southern states of India. The aquarium and zoo are some of the best in the region and well worth a visit.

White sandy shores
Trivandrum's palm fringed beaches and white sandy shores offer pleasurable evenings by the seaside. The sea is a special blessing to Kerala. Much of the state's vast coastline, stretching 579 kilometres, is dotted with picturesque beaches which are unusual in that they are bordered by cool green palm groves that sway languidly in the breeze and lush tropical vegetation.

Close to Trivandrum, at a distance of 13 km, is a delightful natural bay, Kovalam, that invites the swimmer to partake of its surge and high wave-free waters. One of the finest beaches of India, Kovalam offers miles upon miles of glistening sands entirely to oneself, a dazzling blue sea and breathtaking scenery.

A five-star resort hotel offers a health, transcendental meditation and yoga centre... a speciality being the oil massage in which ancient Ayurvedic herbs are used. An open air theatre stages the classical dance drama, Kathakali, which is characterised by graceful stylised movements and elaborate costumes. Kerala is the home of this famed dance form which was originally developed from the "Kudiyattam" — the first attempt to scrutinise Sanskrit texts. A few pleasant hours can be spent watching this graceful dance as it dramatises the great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. For those interested in learning the rigours of this dance, a visit to the Kerala Arts Academy at Cheruthuruthi, north of Cochin, is a must.

A wooden palace
An interesting excursion 53 km from Trivandrum is the Padmanabhapuram palace which has been the ancient centre of the Travancore rulers and contains a rare and beautiful wooden palace with elaborate carvings and rare murals. Another 33 km from here brings the visitor to the rocky beach of Kanyakumari. This is the southernmost tip of India, literally Lands End as it is called, where the waters of three oceans meet... the Arabian Sea,



the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean. A magnificent sight by any standard, the fantastic effects of sunrise and sunset at this spot are nothing short of awesome. A pilgrimage spot for Hindus on account of the Kanyakumari temple, it has also the Vivekananda Rock Memorial offshore to which a motor boat carries the interested visitor.

Brilliant red cliffs
Only 51 km north of Trivandrum is the coastal town of Varkala which has a beautiful beach untouched by commercial debris. An artist would be hard put not to capture the brilliant red cliffs looming large on the coastline and a magnificent turquoise sea stretching to meet the sky line. Its most famous monument is the Janardanaswamy temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Mineral water springs of therapeutic value are other attractions.

Further north is the ancient town of Quilon, lying on the creek-fed lake of Ashtamudi. A port for over 3,000 years, since Phoenician times, Quilon lies drenched in history and in the sun. Time seems to stand still for these sea-faring people with their graceful Chinese fishing nets pinning down the colours of the sun onto the banks of the waterways. Here, centuries ago, the Dutch, the Portuguese and British ships anchored and left fragments of history that remain preserved to this day.

From Quilon, one can explore the backwaters of Kerala — winding natural waterways that transverse thick tropical forests and are the sole means of communications with the villages inland. A boat-ride down the waterways to Alleppey, the coir centre of India, is a thrilling experience. Shining sheets of placid water wind gracefully through thick glades of green, echoing to the shrill cries of birds.

Suddenly clearings reveal palm thatched villages, sunburnt children playing by the waters, women with a silken sheen to their dark skins, liquid eyed, holding a backed of husk covered coconuts, a slim wooden boat gliding ahead carrying its cargo of coconuts while a lungi clad, bare chested man steers it with a wooden paddle... all this grips one with an unbelievable feeling of having stepped back hundreds of years in time.

Landscape transformations
From Alleppey, a drive on the main central road, through the commercial centre of Kottayam, known for its graceful churches, brings the visitor to the coun-

tryside very different from the shaded lagoons and quiet waterways. The landscape undergoes a gradual transformation. Shaded hillsides, tender slopes and green valleys mark the delightful 115 km drive to the Periyar Game Sanctuary. The road curves around the large cardamom covered hill sides, past rubber plantations and neatly manicured tea gardens. Hills melt into green mountains with dense vegetation.

The southern reaches of the Western Ghats in Kerala present a diverse range of flora and fauna and a great wealth of wild life. Lofty deciduous forests are dotted with extensive clearings of tall grass and a rich undergrowth of shrub and herbs. Teak, rosewood, sandalwood and ebony are features of the forest that provide raw material for much of Kerala's famed wooden handicrafts — rosewood and teak furniture as well as intricately carved household items.

Wildlife sanctuary
Set in a picturesque setting on the Periyar lake in the hills of the Western Ghats is one of the world's finest sanctuaries — Thekkady — just acclaimed for its scenic beauty and rich wild life. Against a truly natural setting can be seen handsome beasts — the gaur or Indian bison, wild boar, swamp deer and, of course, the Indian elephant. The best season is from September to April, when herds of elephant come down to the lake to drink and bathe.

The still and calm waters of the Periyar lake provide a natural home for waterbirds — cormorants, ducks and darters. A number of good hotels dot the shores and motorboats are available to cruise the waters while watching wild animals drinking water at the lake. On an island in the heart of the lake stands a former maharaja's palace, now converted into a beautiful hotel.

Tourist facilities
Over the years Trivandrum has developed from a captivating little town to a metropolis which has retained its gentle charm and leisurely lifestyle. Connected by rail and air to Madras, Cochin and Madurai and by rail to New Delhi, Trivandrum offers tourist facilities of a high standard. It is now linked by air to Colombo and Dubai as well. There are 19 government approved hotels in the city as well as a Government and Corporation Rest House. Tourist cars, taxis and the city bus service operate and cover all routes to

places of tourist interest. A list of travel agents and guide services approved by the government can be obtained from the Government of Kerala Tourist Offices at Park View, at the airport and the bus station. As an entry point to its emerald hinterland — verdant rice fields, inland lagoons, spectacular waterways and unique landscapes — Trivandrum is a must on every tourist itinerary.

Gourmet's delight

WITH every daily event a celebration of life, Indian food is a heady multicourse meal for the gourmet with a taste for the exotic. India offers a diverse range of foods for the traveller — to be eaten crisp and freshly cooked from the hearth, for therein lies the flavour.

The mainstay of India's food is wheat and rice. The former is kneaded into a dough and prepared in a wide range of rotis, paranthas, naans and puris. The latter is boiled plain, fried, spiced or served as pulao and biryani in mouth watering concoctions. These are eaten with a variety of meat, fish and vegetable dishes in exotic combinations with very surprising results. Barbecued, grilled,

curried or fried meats, rich sea fare, lentil curries, curd preparations, salads, pickles, chutneys and rotis/rice are the basic foods of an Indian meal.

Ideally, if you are looking for rich fare, take your pick from a Mughlai or Kashmiri menu. In every region and in every city there is a refreshingly different meal to delight your palate. For desserts, there is a very wide range of milk sweets, syrup sweets, candies and sundaes. Have a chilled ras malai, kheer or phirni. Have some gulab jamun or jalebi hot from frying pan. Try a wide range of halwa made of carrots, pulses or egg. And Bengal rasogollas are superb.



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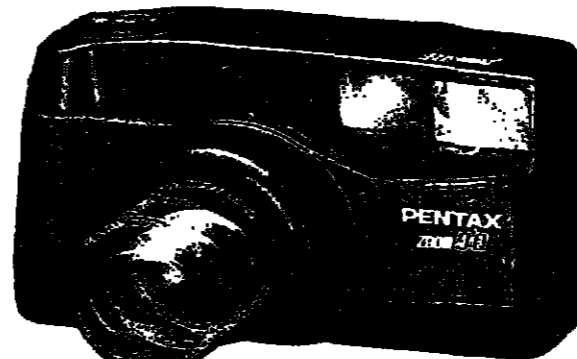
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INDUSTRY

Emerging industrial power

By Krishan Anand

INDIA had a tradition of industrial progress long before the British arrived on the scene. The very fine quality of muslin produced by weavers in Bengal was famous the world over. The manufacture of steel was perfected long before the West knew about it. India's cottage industry not only provided sustenance to the rural economy, but also brought in valuable revenue for the country through exports of its products.

All this changed with the arrival of the British in the 17th century. They destroyed India's cottage and textile industries so that Britain's own mills could develop and expand. Thus, when India became independent in 1947, most of its needs were being imported. One of the few exceptions was steel, thanks to the efforts of that great industrial visionary, Jamshedji Naoroji Tata who set up a steel plant in Bihar.

Free India had therefore to start from scratch. In 1948, the government announced its industrial policy envisaging a mixed economy assuming overall responsibility for planned development and regulation of industrial production in the national interest. The policy was revised in 1956 by what came to be known as the Industrial Policy Resolution.

Under this, the nation's industrial activity was divided into three categories. First came the core sector in which the infrastructural or "mother" industries were listed under government control. Railways, communications, defence production, mining oil, energy and civil aviation all formed part of this sector and so did steel also, for a major part.

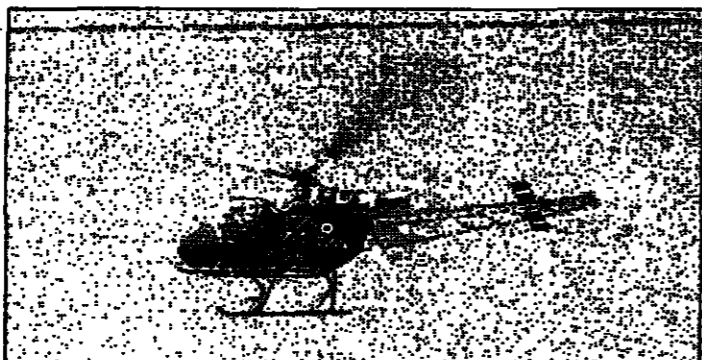
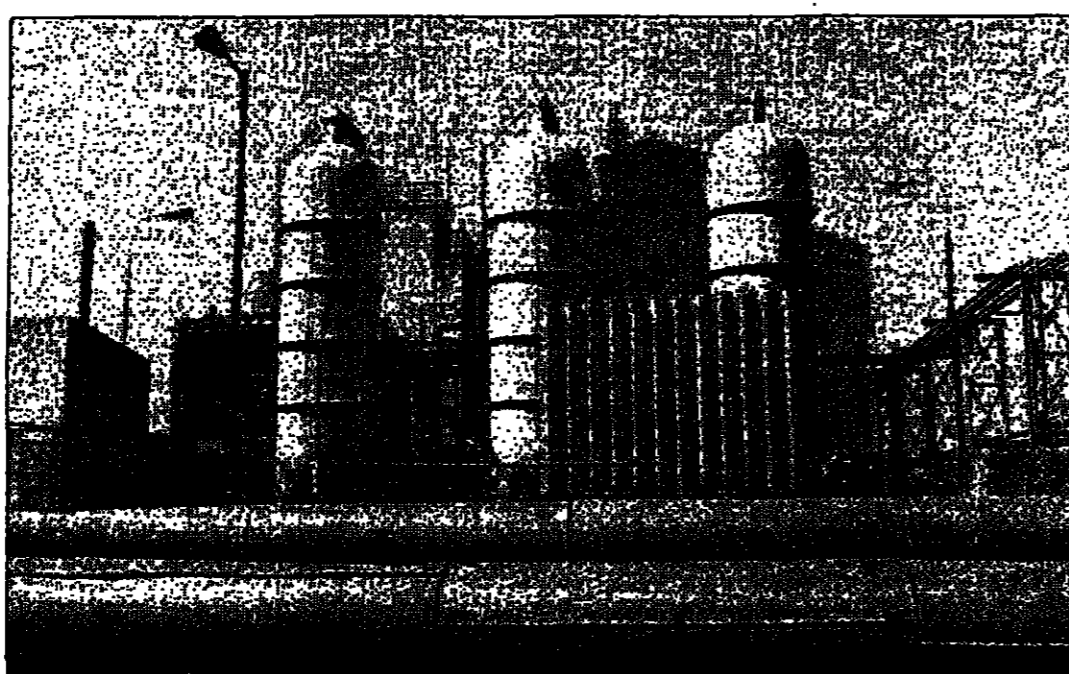
The second category comprised all those industries which were to be progressively taken over by the government into the public sector. And the third list had all those industries catering to consumer needs which were exclusively left to private entrepreneurs.

Apart from categorising the industries, the government formulated a policy framework to regulate their working. Rules and regulations were framed for checking the growth of monopolistic trends and concentration of wealth in a few hands. The emphasis has all through been on creating an egalitarian economy for the country's development.

In the process, India has emerged as a leading industrial power in the world with the capacity to produce almost everything it needs. According to latest official statistics, an investment of Rs 610 billion (Rs 100 equals six US dollars) in 225 public sector enterprises had yielded a combined turnover of Rs 690 billion. These units are presently contributing Rs 120 billion annually to the national exchequer by way of taxes and dividends. As many as 2.2 million persons are employed in the public sector.

Output
Industrial growth since the beginning of the planning process in 1950 bears several striking features. The national output has gone up by six and half times in the past four decades, as compared to a two per cent annual growth rate achieved during the first half of the century. The share of mining, manufacturing and the construction industries in the gross domestic product, has increased from 14.9 per cent to 21.2 per cent since 1950.

The growth and diversifica-



tion of the Indian manufacturing industry has been remarkable in modern times. Today, the country is self-reliant in the manufacture of plant and machinery needed by a large number of units for the production of consumer goods. Similarly, the fertiliser industry produces a large number of soil nutrients like urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate, calcium, ammonium chloride and phosphoric acids. There are more than 100 medium and large scale engineering workshops fabricating machinery for fertiliser plants in the country.

The machine tools industry, by itself, has also achieved significant progress. Its production level has gone up from barely Rs 10 million in 1956 to over Rs 3000 million in 1986. It has now gone

into manufacturing hi-tech computerised and numerically controlled machine tools with capacity to turn out sophisticated milling machines, coordinate tables as well as horizontal and vertical machining centres.

In the metallurgical machinery sector, there are 27 units in the country manufacturing steel and metal plant equipment with a total installed capacity of Rs 800 million. Mining has 17 units in the organised sector with total approved production capacity of Rs 1300 million. Two public sector undertakings — Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation and Jessop and Company — are the leading manufacturers of mining machinery.

Similarly, 18 units in the country are engaged in the production

of various types of earth moving equipment and mobile cranes. The former includes shovels, bulldozers, crawlers, tractors, dumpers, loaders, scrapers, motor graders, excavators and draglines. In the field of steel structural fabrication, 143 units

are producing heavy, medium and light structurals with a total installed capacity of 530,000 metric tonnes per annum.

Textiles

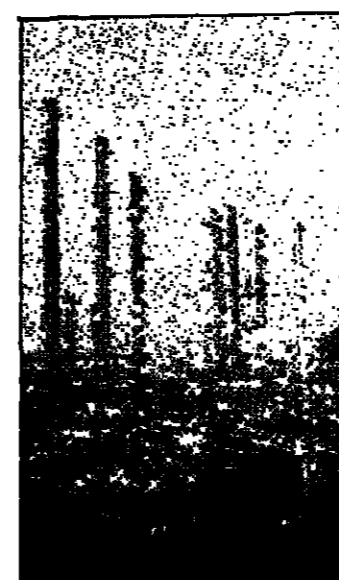
As for transmission line towers, 19 units have been established since independence and eight are in various stages of implementation with a total capacity of 300,000 metric tonnes. The textile machinery manufacturing industry has about 550 units. There are also 15 jute machinery manufacturers and another 140 small units engaged in producing spares. Another 11 are manufacturing rayon and synthetic fibre machinery with a total lined capacity of Rs 330 million.

In the field of paper and pulp machinery, 32 units are engaged, 10 of which are catering to small size paper plants of 10 tonnes per day capacity. Complete pulp plants, stock preparation equipment and certain types of finishing equipment command an installed capacity exceeding Rs 500 million.

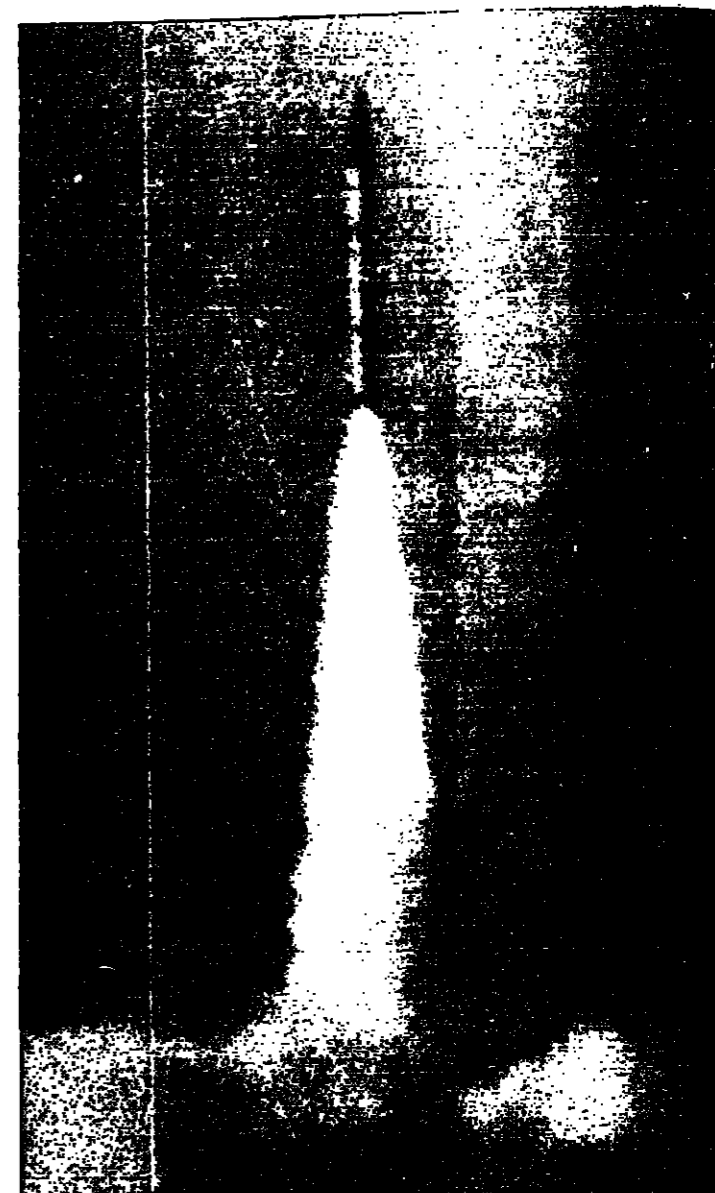
As regards the cement machinery sector, 15 units are in operation supplying complete plants both for pre-calcination and dry process technologies with capacities ranging from 600 to 3200 tonnes per day. The existing units have also taken up the manufacture of mini cement plants across the country.

In the field of sugar industry, 27 units are engaged in the manufacture of plants and components. Plants of 1250 tonnes per day capacity have already been commissioned and the industry is capable of handling larger plants up to 6000 tonnes per day.

The 1980s have seen several new policy initiatives for industrial growth. Efficiency, competitiveness, technological self-reliance and export boost-up are the cornerstones of the new policy. These have led to a gradual shift from discretionary qualitative controls to non-discretionary fiscal controls and the building of greater competitive pressure to improve quality and reduced costs. These have had a salutary effect on the Indian economy, which, despite scanty rainfall for some years, has developed considerable resilience in tiding over adversities.

**Progress**

In four decades, independent India has attained self-sufficiency in manufacture of machinery for its major industries — aircraft, ships, automobiles, locomotives, heavy electrical machinery, construction, power generation, precision instruments and machine tools. India now claims to be in a position to help other developing countries. Right: the successful test launch of the Agni missile in May last year.

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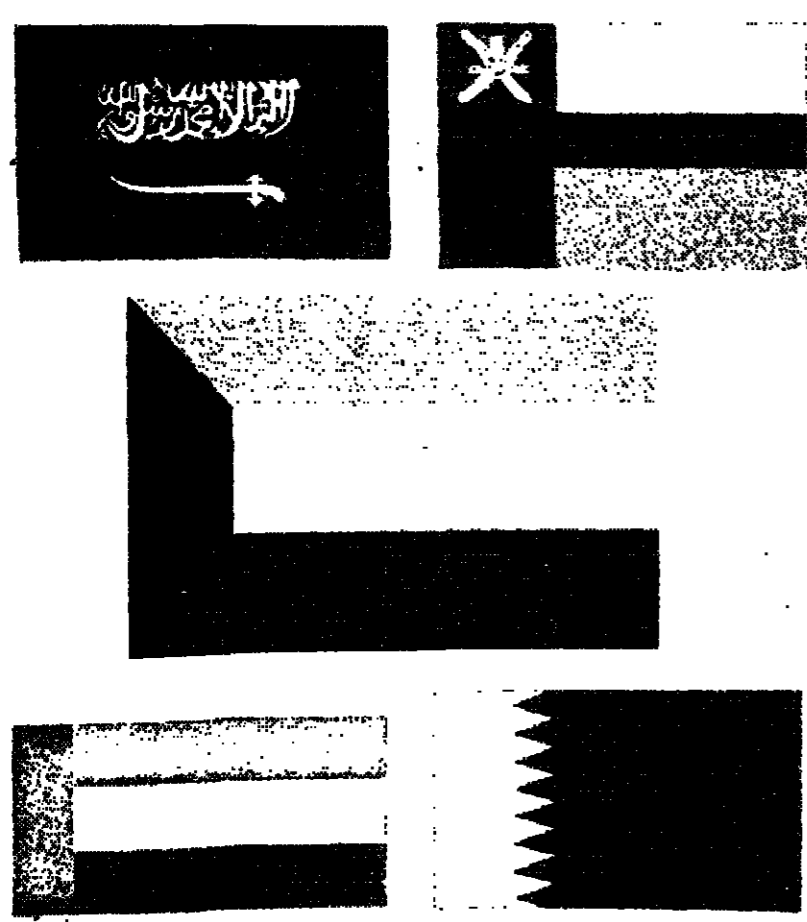
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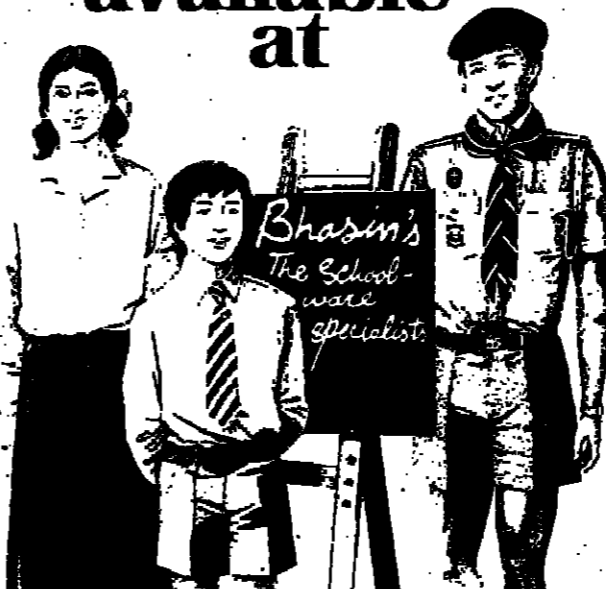
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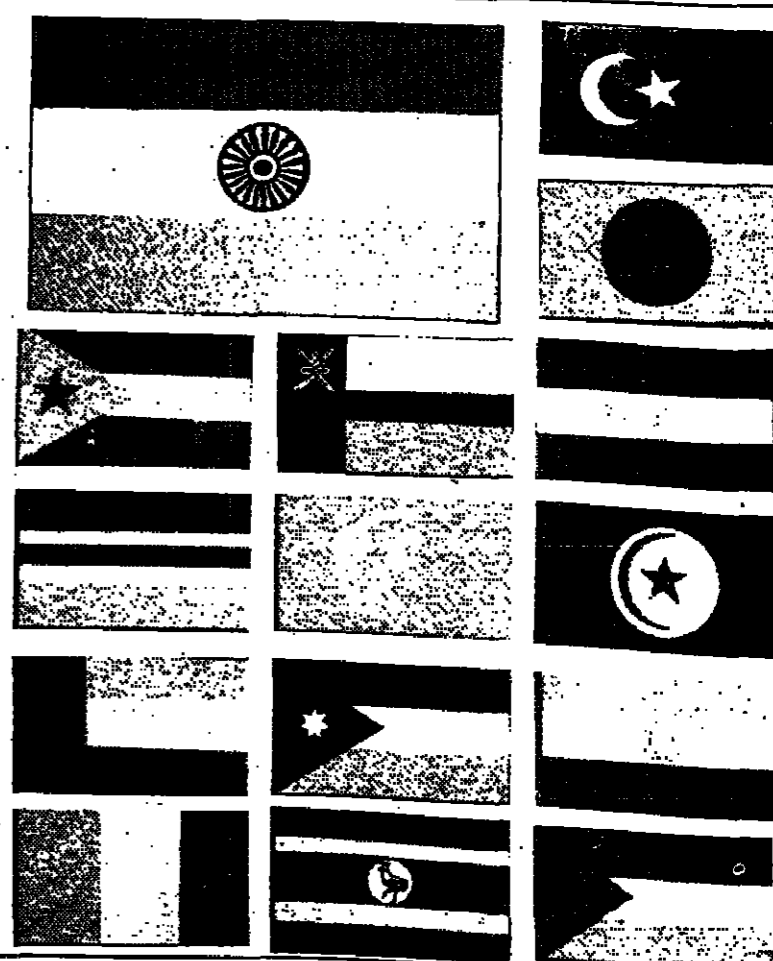
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Forging ahead in telecommunications

TELECOMMUNICATIONS Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is a multi-disciplinary engineering organisation of the Government of India, engaged in the execution of telecommunication projects in India and abroad. Being an integral part of the India Department of Telecommunications, it has the back up of highly qualified and experienced managers and technicians.

In a short period of 10 years, it has become a giant entrepreneur in India and a formidable international company in the field of telecommunications. TCIL has achieved an impressive record of performance by completing various projects in diversified fields of telecommunications.

Presently it is executing a large number of telecommunications projects in about 18 countries throughout the world. Its contribution in developing telecom services in Gulf countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Yemen Arab Republic, etc., has been significant.

In Kuwait, TCIL has been doing very well and has established itself as a leading contracting company in telecommunications. It has executed major



Kuwait's Communication Minister Abdullah Abdul Mohsin Al Sharhan with his Indian counterpart Bir Bahadur Singh.

turnkey projects for the Ministry of Communications, Kuwait Oil Co., and other organisations.

Presently, TCIL is engaged on the construction and maintenance of telephone network in all exchange areas under town and Shuwaikh centers besides execution of turnkey projects for providing telephone network in the new housing colony of Al Qurraim and west Fintas, and for diversion of telephone cables along town highways.

TCIL is executing contracts for maintenance of digital electronic PABXs and low voltage systems in the ministries com-

plex and Ministry of Planning building. All the NEC type of electronic PABXs in the state of Kuwait are being maintained by TCIL engineers. A contract for the supply, installation and maintenance of communications and security systems for the new Indian embassy building is under execution.

Co-operation

To enhance the bi-lateral co-operation in the field of telecommunications between India and Kuwait, the Indian government invited the minister of Communications, Kuwait to visit India. In Feb 1989, Mr Abdullah Abdul

Mohsin Al Sharhan, minister of Communications along with the under Secretary and senior directors of the Ministry of Communications visited India.

This high power delegation was highly impressed by the advancement made by Indian telecommunications in various fields, like research, human resources development, indigenous development and production of switching system etc. Mr Abdullah Al Sharhan expressed his satisfaction over the efficiency of TCIL's operations in Kuwait.

Among the other GCC coun-

tries where TCIL made significant contribution to the development of telecommunication, Saudi Arabia is the foremost. TCIL was awarded a contract worth US\$ 150 million in Saudi Arabia for rehabilitation of telephone network in 5 urban areas.

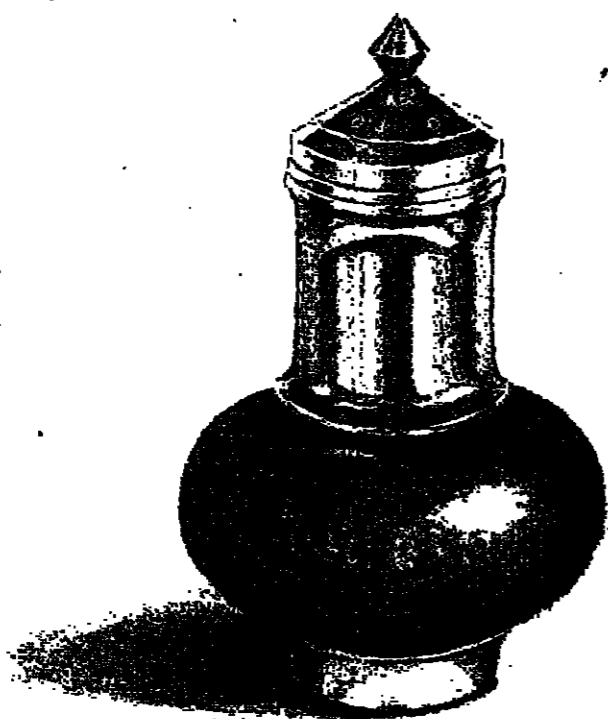
Contract

TCIL has been awarded a prestigious contract by International Telecom Union (I.T.U) for drafting specifications and the system architecture for the satellite and ground stations for an African satellite (RASCOR) covering all the 50 countries in the continent and a few island countries. Recently TCIL has been prequalified by the World Bank for major turnkey telecom projects in Indonesia.

TCIL has set up a joint venture recently in association with Bell South International USA and another one with Nepostel, Netherlands, for development activities in software and high-tech areas relating to telecommunications.

TCIL has established a joint venture company for indigenous production of Jelly Filled Cables in collaboration with Essex U.S.A. and the Unit will commence production by the middle of this year.

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Mystery of textile terminology

By Jyotindra Jain

It is not by chance that the people of ancient India expressed their philosophical ideas and summarised their worldview by using textile terminology. Significantly the word for 'attribute' is the same as that for a single thread of that the term for 'speculation' and that for spindle derives from a common root.

Some three thousand years ago, in the initial centuries of their entry into India, the pastoral Aryans probably wandered around, in the same manner as their contemporary survivors today, spinning wool with their spindle. *Sutra* the spun thread, became the basis for the fabric — also the fabric of the Universe. The 'holder of thread' (*sutradhara*) was conceived as premier Architect — the Creator. No wonder the Aryan perception of the mysteries of time and space found expression through the symbolism of spinning and weaving. A Vedic poet visualised the phenomenon of day and night in the image of two immortal girls having different complexions weaving a fabric; one of them stretching the warp another feeding the weft.

It is only apt that the people whose early perceptions of the nature of the universe were expressed figuratively in terms of weaving should have created such rich and glorious traditions of textiles over the centuries.

Cotton was grown and woven into fabric in India five thousand years ago. Hemp, flax, wool and silk too, have a centuries-old history in the subcontinent.

Indian textiles presumably have been the single most popular item abroad for over five millennia. Harappans, in all probability, exported madder-dyed cotton to neighbouring regions. Brocade textiles figured prominently in India's trade with Rome. In the late medieval times India was the greatest exporter of textiles ever known. Indian fabrics were proverbially renowned almost in every country of the civilised world. By the end of the 17th century, the Indian printed and painted cloth (*chintz*) had revolutionised European fashion so much so that the later textile manufactures of Europe were to become cheap imitations of the Indian prototypes.

Spinning

Before the introduction of mechanised means of spinning, in the early 19th century, all Indian textiles were handspun and handwoven — now popularly known as *Khadi*. Those handwoven fabrics which use millspun yarn are known as handloom fabrics.

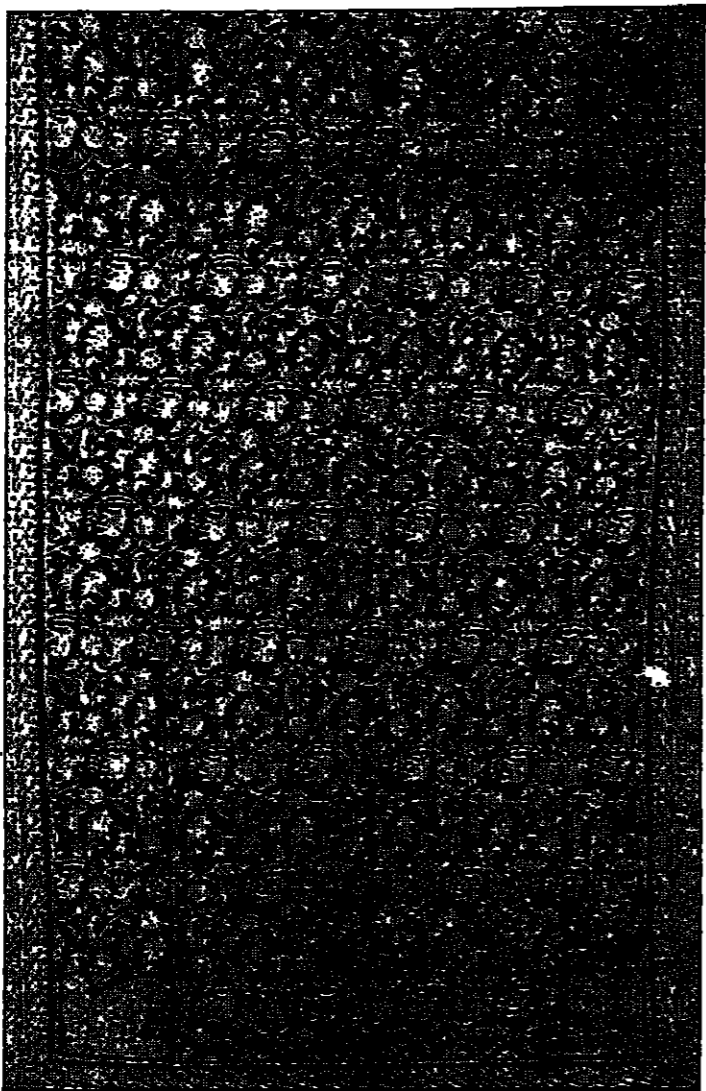
The rich and varied textile traditions of India are due to her variety of climatic zones, geographical situations, cultural pockets and religious and racial diversity. Heavily forested eastern and north eastern regions are ideally suitable for rearing silk worms, the plains are the fertile grounds for growing cotton whereas the cold and mountainous regions of the north and the hilly tracts of the rest of the country yield plenty of wool.

Every social or religious group had its own norms of colour, design or material for fabric and its own style of garments. The dividing line between religious and secular was thin. The myths and rituals, the fairs and festivals, the initiation ceremonies or the *sanskaras* at every important stage in life — all played an important role in determining the nature and character of textiles and garments. As pointed out by Pupal Jayakar, temples claimed for their rituals the finest creations of the craftsmen. Only the perfect-without-blemish could be offered to the godhead.

Colour

Sensitivity to colour was rooted in an inbuilt aesthetic perception — which combined emotional and mythical meaning. Red was the colour of love and youth and was the symbol of eternal marital bliss. Yellow signified fertility. Blue was worn by a beloved going to meet her lover at night. Saffron brought spring and fragrance. Saffron was also the colour of martyrdom and renunciation. Maroon and black were the colours of mourning. Krishna was blue. Shiva was fair. Kali was dark. Gauri was fair.

Unstitched lengths of fabric draped around the body formed the main garment of men and women in traditional India. It is evident that in most parts of the country the men tied a turban around the head, tied a *dhoti* or *lungi* around the waist and wore a loose cloth like a scarf or shawl over the shoulder. The women wore a lower draped garment and covered their torso and sometimes their head with a second cloth which is known as *odhni* in Northern India. It is a fallacy to believe that these wrapping garments were not structured because they were not stitched. *Dhoti*, *odhni* and sari were as structured as the stitched garments because these were well defined, superbly appropriate to

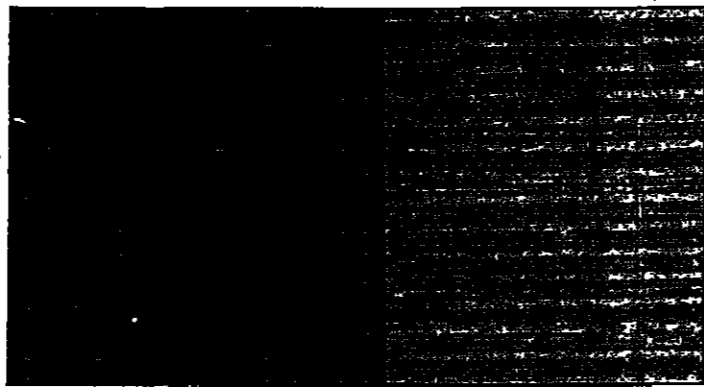


the climate and had certain fine conventions and proportions as articulated by sociocultural norms. A woman's marital status, sub-caste, area of origin, and special circumstances, if any, could be immediately understood by the traditional community in which she lived from the sari she was wearing. A woman from Madras would never wear her sari the way a Gujarati woman would, though physically it might be possible to wear the same sari in two different ways it was culturally not possible. On the other hand, because of a certain flexibility in the manner of draping, the sari could be easily adapted to suit the occasion. While working in the farm or doing household work, a woman can pull up her sari and

Because the sari continues to be the most popular female attire in India, it is the true backbone of the handloom industry, the sari may be of silk, cotton, or mixed yarn, plain or ornamented with brocade, embroidery, printing, tie-dyeing or simply by woven patterns. Considering the variety of designs, textures, techniques, materials and weaves that are employed in the sari the handloom technology alone could be appropriate for its production.

Cotton

Cotton is the soul of the handloom industry of India. About three million hand-operated looms, which is ninety per cent of the total handlooms of the country, are engaged in weaving cotton fabrics. Cotton was a 'wonder-plant' for the Europeans who



gly enough *karpasa*, the Sanskrit word for cotton is related to Greek *karpas* and the Latin *carbasus*. The English word 'cotton' has kinship with the Arabic *qutun*.

Today India grows some 23 varieties of cotton which are classified into: extra superfine, superfine, fine, fully good and good. The quality of cotton is judged by its fibre length, fineness, maturity and strength.

Silk

There are innumerable references to silk in early Indian literature. It appears that one of the most refined varieties of silks known as 'mulberry' was perhaps introduced into India from China at a later date and that the silk worms known as *tasar*, *muga* and *eri* and other local varieties were indigenous to India. Often the East India Company is granted the credit for introducing mulberry worms into India but this is not certain. It is on record that already in the 19th century mulberry trees and mulberry silk insects were in abundance in Manipur region. Manipur might easily have had, unknown to the rest of India, a mulberry silk industry many centuries before India proper received that insect. Today there is large scale cultivation of mulberry insects and a huge production of fine mulberry silk in the country. *Tasar*, *muga* and *eri* type of silk varieties are coarser but renowned for their textural beauty.

Textiles can be patterned either after the process of weaving is completed or at the stage of preparing the yarn and at the level of weaving. The various ways of creating patterns on woven textiles by means of dyes include the tie-and-dye technique, block printing, resist-dyeing, drawing and painting, painting and printing and tinsel work. From among several ways of creating patterns on the loom itself, the most renowned are the *ikat* and brocade techniques.

Ikot fabrics

Ikot, the technique by which the warp or weft or both can be tie-dyed in such a way that, when woven the 'programmed' pattern appears in the finished fabric. In *patola*, the proverbially famous double-*ikat* sari in which both warp and weft are so resist-dyed that when woven, the elements of pattern on the warp and on the weft mesh to create the desired richness of figure and ground. Once upon a time *patolas* were woven in Ahmedabad, Surat, Cambay and Patan. Today Patan is the only town that produces these remarkable fabrics.

Orissa is another great area of *ikat* saris and fabrics of cotton and silk. Here the difference is that though the warp and the weft are resist-dyed, the elements of pattern of the warp and the weft may not mesh. In other words in Orissa we are offered warp-*ikat* and combined *ikat*. In Orissan *ikat* saris certain areas of border and end-piece are woven by using plain dyed yarn, often as extra-weft.

Applying the same technique as in Orissa, but additionally using oil in preparing the yarn, Andhra had a tradition of *tela rumal*, a piece of cloth, used as *lungi*, shoulder cloth or loin cloth. The tradition was about to become extinct when, in the middle of this century, the All India Handicrafts Board gave a new lease of life to Chirala, Pochampalli, Puttapaka, Koyyalagudem and other centres where a large quantity of brilliant fabric is produced today.

Brocade fabrics

Brocade refers to those textiles wherein patterns are created in weaving by transfixing or thrusting the pattern-thread between the warp. In regular weaving the weft thread passes over and under the warp thread regularly. But when brocade designs in gold, silver, silk or cotton threads are to be woven, special threads are transfixed inbetween by skipping the passage of the regular weft over a certain number of warp threads (depending upon the pattern) and by regularising the skipping by means of prearranged heddles for each type of patterning.

Depending upon the nature of the patterning thread we have cotton-brocade, silk-brocade, mixed brocade or *zari* brocade.

When gold and silver threads are used along with or without silk threads, thrust either as special weft or warp to create glittering raised feather and chain stitches the embroiderers

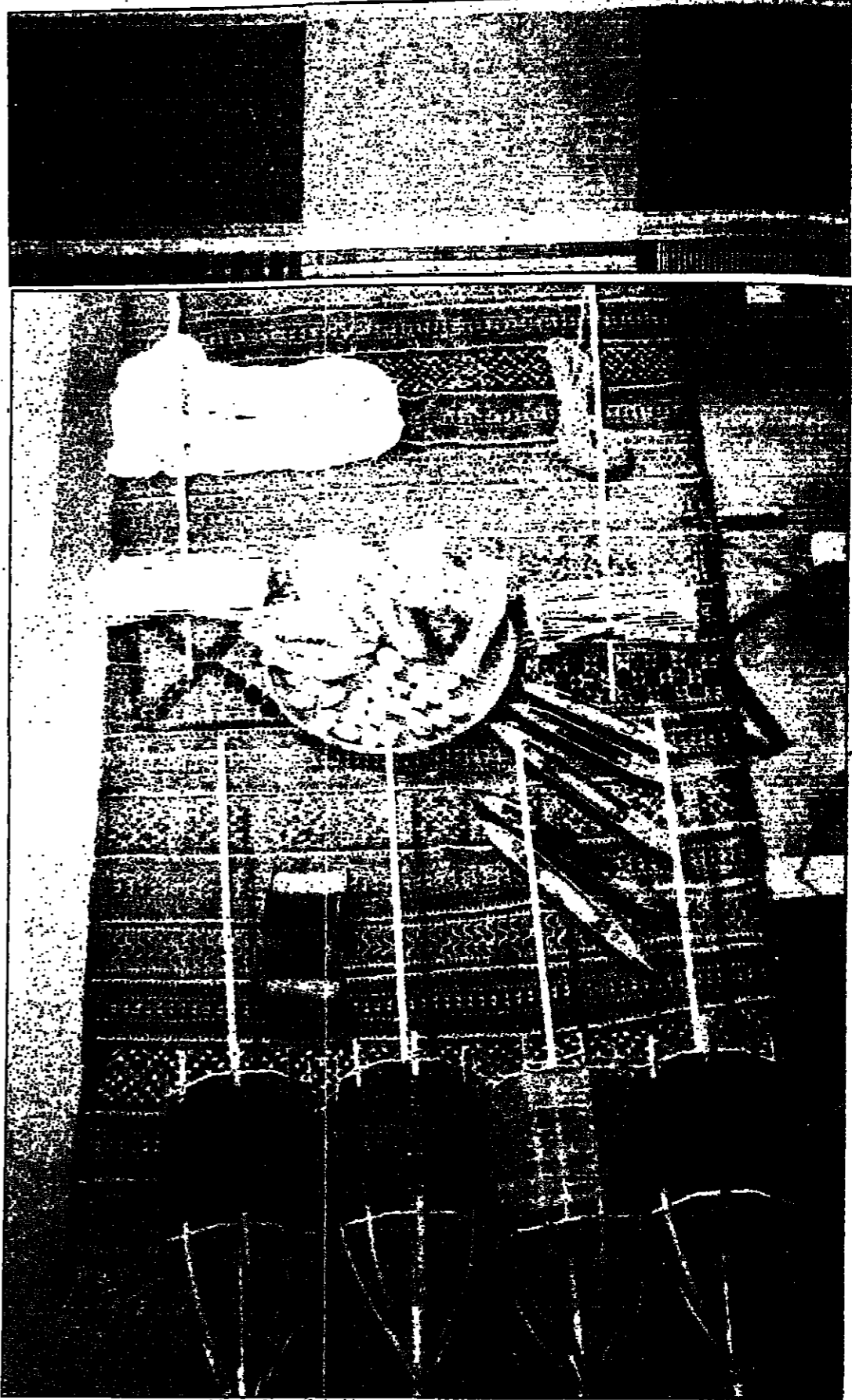
of Kashmir create beautiful patterns of paisley motif on their cotton and woollen drapings.

Annihilation and Revival

The glorious traditions of Indian handwoven textiles stood on the brink of extinction with the dramatic inventions in Europe of textile-related machinery during the Industrial Revolution.

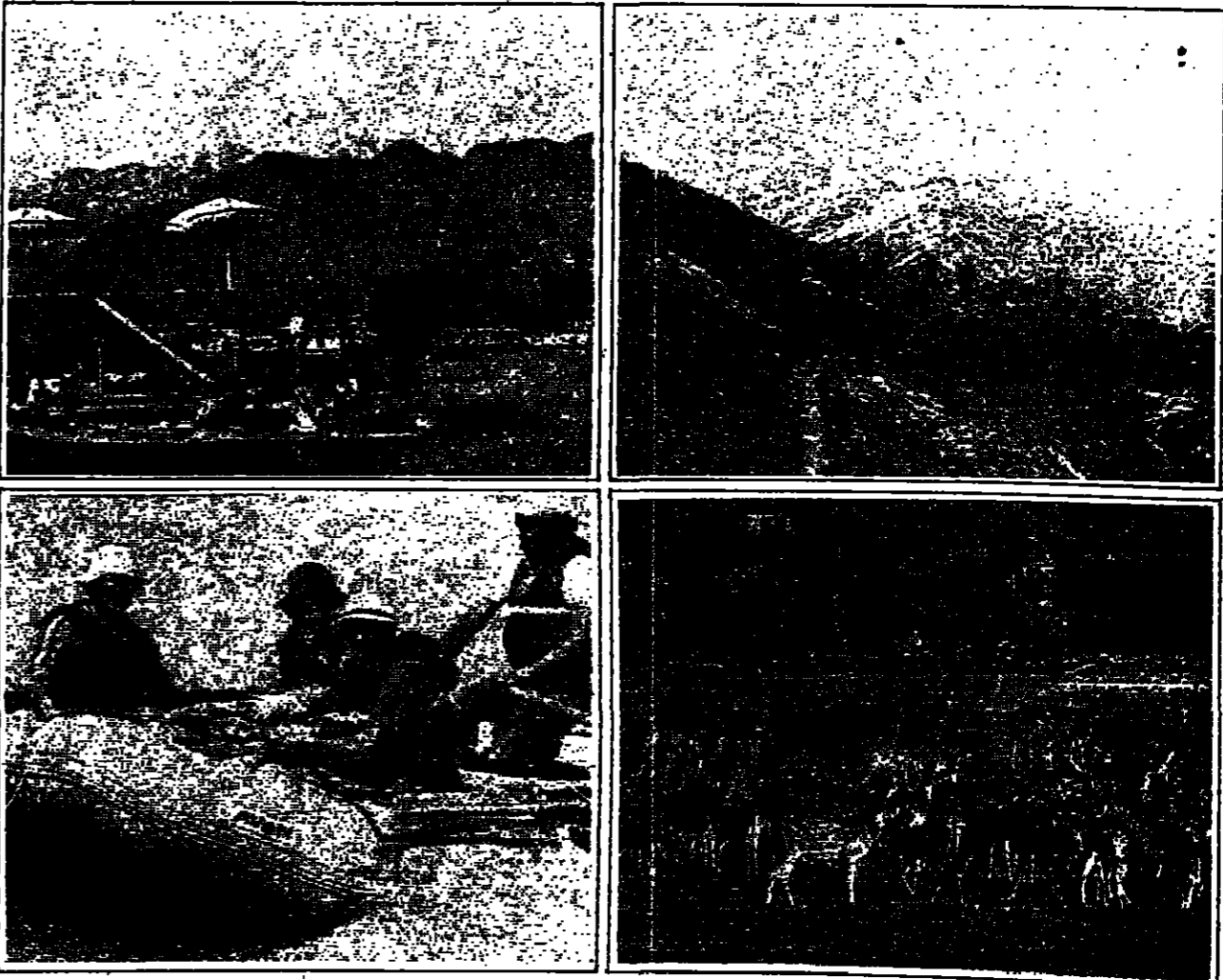
In 1952 the All India Handlooms Board was established bringing together the main representatives of weaver interests. This was followed by the organisation of the All India Handlooms Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society in 1955, an apex body concerned with the marketing of products mainly produced through handloom organisation. At about the same time a major technical wing of the handloom industry, later to be known as the Weavers Service Centres, and Institutes of Handloom Technology were established. With the team of talented and devoted designers, craftsmen and administrators, a revolution was brought in the development of handlooms. In 1958 the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India was conceived, with the purpose of introducing handloom cloth to the new markets of Europe and USA.

Due to these endeavours on the part of the government in the last 37 years the turn that the dwindling handloom industry took is history and reality. Today about 3.5 million handlooms are operating in the country and millions of people, by choice, wear handlooms. Cotton and silk exports have risen from Rs 10 crores of the sixties to Rs 350 crores in 1982-83.



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MINIATURES

Brilliant examples of Mughal art

INDIAN art is basically religious. From earliest times, sculptures and paintings have formed a part of religious establishments, decorating temples, stupas and shrines of every sort. Sculptures adorned the gateways and walls of temples and other places of worship. Carved images stood on pedestals in the sanctum sanctorum, or in subsidiary buildings. Narrative friezes in stone extended horizontally and vertically along the inner and outer surfaces of buildings, illustrating stories from Hindu mythology or from Buddhist and Jain literature. These were sometimes interspersed with individual figures sculpted in relief. Every bit of a temple was often decorated, including structural details such as beams and brackets, and even the walls of rock-cut caves were painted with religious and secular scenes, for the Indian instinct for adornment encompassed every part of a structure. Later, tiny, brilliantly coloured miniature paintings illustrated religious treatises and commentaries, as well as secular manuscripts.

The origins of Indian sculpture and painting go back some 8,000 years and an account of its development is inextricably meshed with the development of Indian civilisation.

The tradition of painting on the walls of caves went through at least ten distinct phases. But the culmination of Indian frescoes can be seen at Ajanta, where from the time of the Sungas in the second century BC, wall paintings continued to be made until the fifth century.

It was not until the second half of the 16th century that a truly creative style of miniature painting developed in India, and this was the result of a fusion between Indian and Persian styles. The new style developed in the court of Akbar, the greatest and most interesting of the Mughal Emperors, who successfully blended Hindu and Islamic elements to create the style that we now call Mughal, in architecture, art and administration. Akbar established workshops or *karkhanas* for painters at his court at Fatehpur Sikri, near Agra. Under the guidance of a

Persian artist named Mir Sayyid Ali, and a talented calligrapher named Abdus Samad, about a hundred promising young artists of all castes and creeds were trained in the art of miniature painting and in the equally important art of calligraphy. Some of them became renowned artists and their names reflected their varied origins, and the fact that they included both Hindus and Muslims. Mansur, for example, was Muslim; Govardhan, Basawan and Daswarth were Hindu. They had one thing in common; they excelled and developed under the emperor's unbiased patronage, and produced some of the finest miniature paintings that have ever been made.

Mughal miniatures defy traditional western classification. They are not always on paper. Not all of them are of a standard size. In fact, some of them are far from miniature in size, being as large as English watercolours. And, not all of them were made as illustrations for books. Some are loose individual paintings gathered in albums called *Muraqqa*. Despite the variations, however, they comprise a distinct, recognisable style in terms of treatment and the materials used.

Akbar's tolerance and Catholicity are well known. He was particularly interested in religion and in the study of religious scriptures. Despite the fact that he was illiterate, Akbar

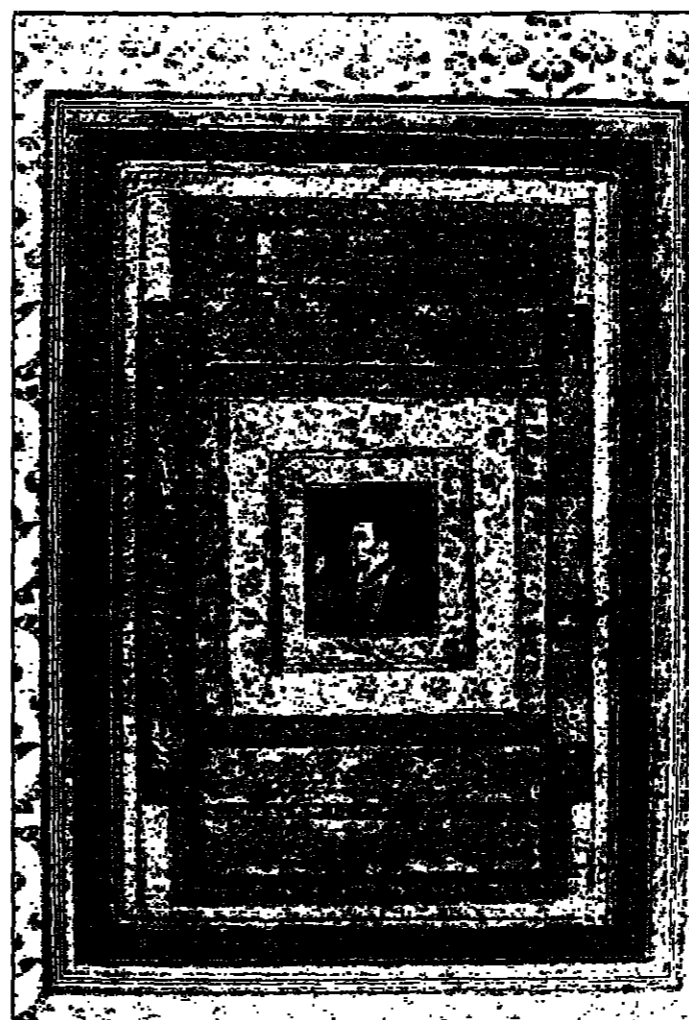
accumulated an extensive library, and had many manuscripts translated and copied for his collection. Among these was the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, which became known as the *Hamzanama* or the Story of the Great War. It was illustrated with about 1,400 paintings on coarse cotton cloth. Among other manuscripts written and illustrated under his direction were the *Baburnama*, or the story of Babur, the first of the Mughal rulers, and the *Akbarnama*, about his own reign. Both these were done on paper and illustrated with a large number of beautiful paintings.

Artists in Akbar's reign used ochre, kaolin, terra verde, carbon black, malachite and azurite, and later lead white, madder lake, indigo and peori, a yellow substance extracted from the urine of cows fed on mango leaves. They also used gold, silver and lapis lazuli, the latter imported from Afghanistan. These later paintings are sumptuously colourful and have a lively, detailed style that brings history alive. Every bit of the painting is finely worked and entire scenes of battle and court life come alive in fascinating detail. Artists used delicate brushes made of squirrel's hair to achieve these effects.

The paintings done in Akbar's time established new patterns of art. The Persian influence was marked, and yet the court artists were able to convey something of the environment in which the paintings were made.

If Akbar established a new idiom in the field of painting, his son, Jahangir brought it to fruition, for the miniatures produced under his patronage are the best of those in the Mughal style. Although he was not as great a ruler as his father, Jahangir had an interest in the arts. He was also a keen observer of nature, and his interest in fauna and flora led to a large number of lovely paintings of animals, birds and plants being done.

The illustrations of important manuscripts continued during Jahangir's reign, but he also put in a train a large number of individual paintings. The portraits of all kinds of people, and



A leaf from the Akbarnama showing the rejoicing that took place at the birth of Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor



paintings of single birds and animals, are distinctly different from the crowded scenes that illustrate the scenes of Akbar's reign. Jahangiri paintings are also characterised by fine brushwork and shading. Optical perspective was meticulously maintained, and the landscape was integrated with the rest of the composition.

After Jahangir's reign, Mughal painting declined in quality and originality. Jahangir's son and successor, Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, was more interested in architecture than painting. Under his rule, Mughal architecture reached a pinnacle of excellence, but painting suffered from lack of royal interest. Although the workshops were not closed down, the quality of work that emerged from them had lost its vigour and expressiveness. And, when Shah Jahan's stern and puritanical son Aurangzeb became emperor in the second

half of the 17th century, Mughal painting more or less came to an end, although craftsmen continued to produce works of art for a diminishing market.

Many of the artists trained in the Mughal *karkhanas* and their apprentices flocked to the courts

of smaller Hindu states in Rajasthan, in places such as Bundi, Kotah, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner, and to the northern hill states of the Punjab, such as Kangra, Kulu, Nurpur, Chamba, Basoli and Guler. The rulers of Rajasthani states had always encouraged painting, even in the heyday of Mughal art and now they became the major

If Akbar established a new idiom in the field of painting, Jahangir brought it to fruition, for the miniatures produced under his patronage are the best.

other works such as the *Bhagavata Purana* and *Rasikapriya* all provided themes that were rich in imagery and symbolism. Musical modes, called *ragas* also influenced the artists, who strove to capture the mood and flavour of music in representational images.

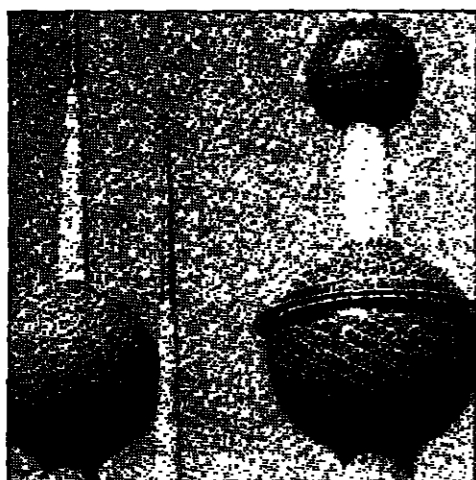
This rich tradition revitalised the art of miniature painting and

laid out new directions of development. The artists of the provincial styles honoured their patrons by depicting their palaces and gardens in paintings that illustrated stories from literary works. The buildings and landscapes took on a highly poetic style and were romanticised by moonlight, heavily laden clouds or dark moonlessness. The renowned historian, A. K. Coomaraswami has made a penetrating observation about the paintings of the Rajasthani school. He says:

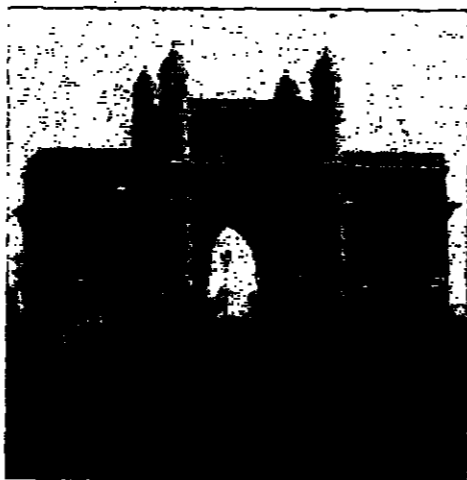
"Rajput art creates a magic world where all men are heroic and all women beautiful, passionate and shy. Beasts both wild and tame are the friends of man, and trees and flowers are conscious of the bridegroom as he passes. This magic world is not unreal or fanciful but a world of imagination and eternity, visible to all who do not refuse to see with the transfiguring eyes of love."

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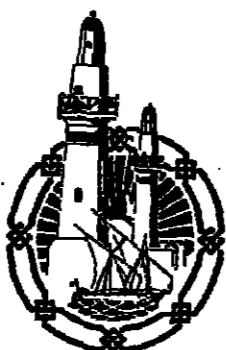
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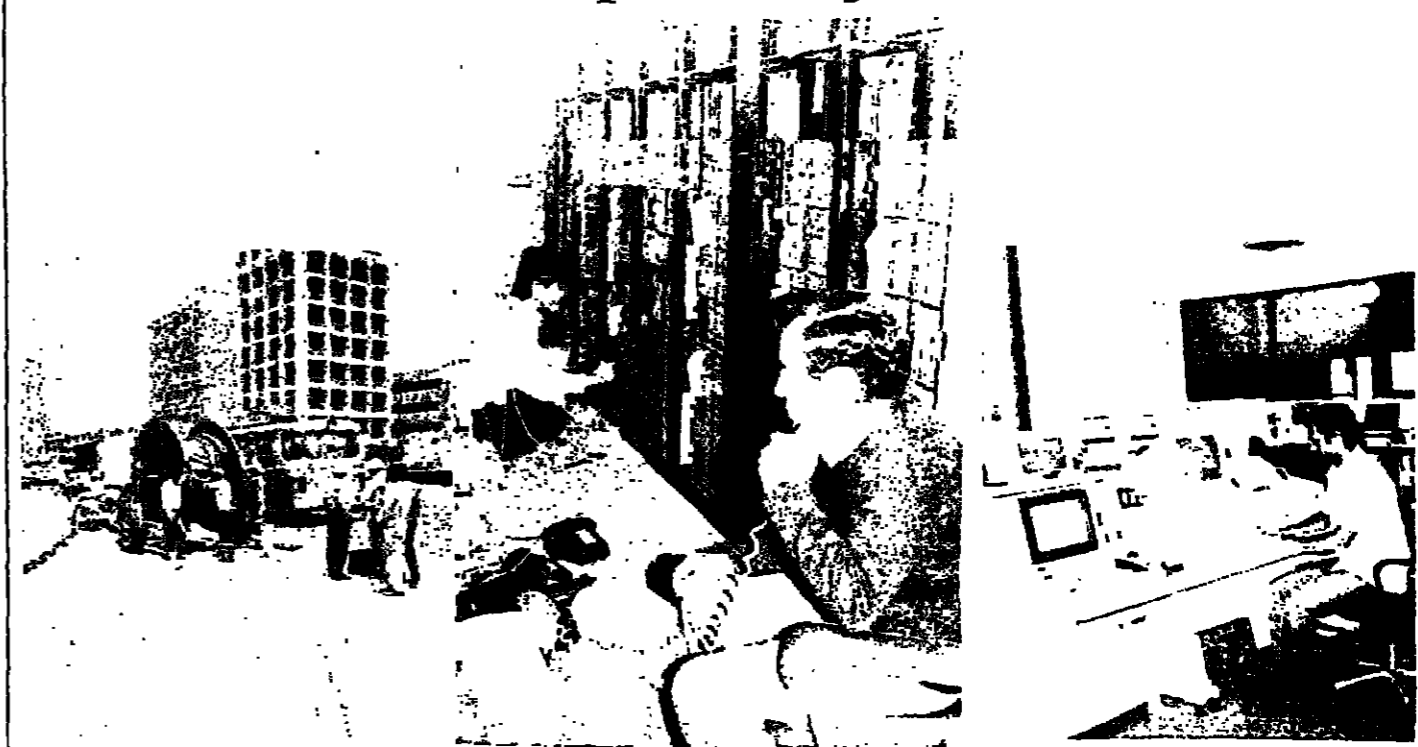
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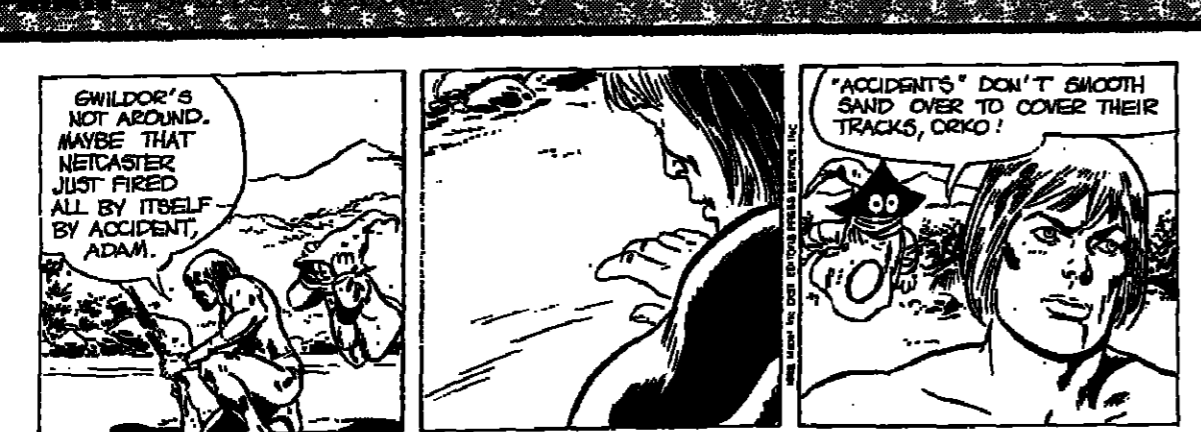
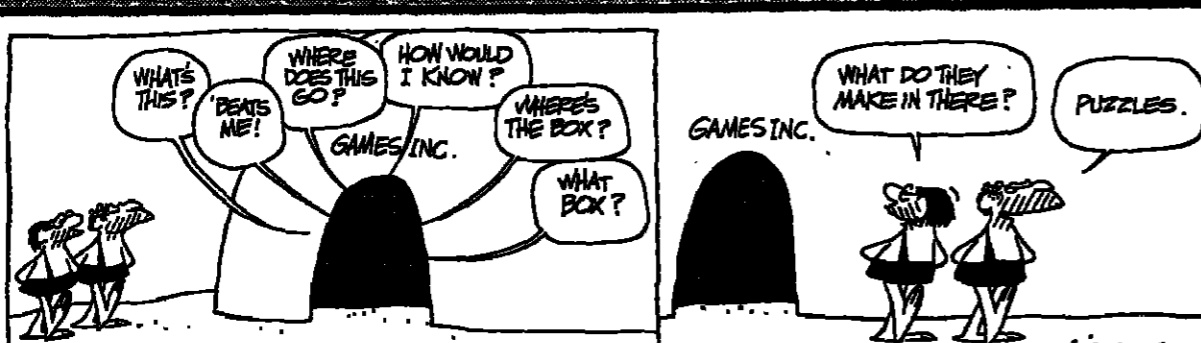
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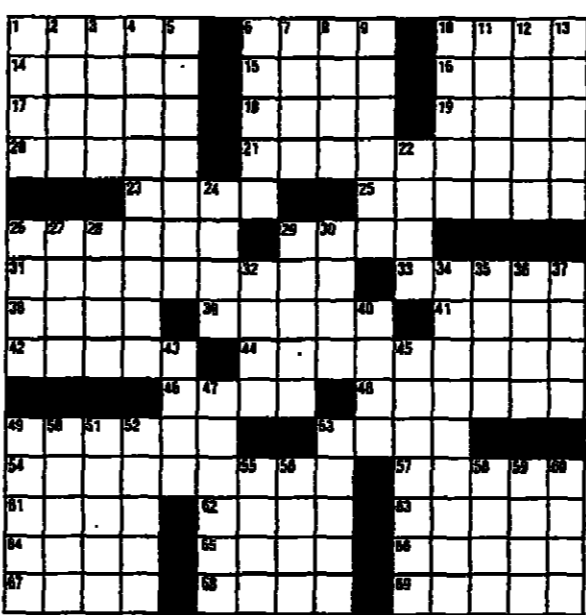
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Offends
 - 6 Trudge on
 - 10 Undermines
 - 14 Dostoyevski novel, with "The"
 - 15 Issue of 19 Across
 - 16 Group at a highland gathering
 - 17 Pavarotti's voice
 - 18 Sharif
 - 19 Sicilian sight
 - 20 Try out
 - 21 Feel happy as a lark
 - 23 Yerkes refractor
 - 25 Tempt
 - 26 The Mississippi's discoverer
 - 29 Complexion
 - 31 Charlatans
 - 33 Frequently
 - 38 Pastures
 - 39 Muse of poetry
 - 41 Learning
 - 42 Decayed
 - 44 Most flashy
 - 45 Some merinos
 - 48 Blazer badges perhaps
 - 49 Culmination
 - 53 Cheviot chatter
 - 54 Parted
 - 57 Pursuit
 - 61 Anagram for 38 Across
 - 62 Decline
 - 63 Knights' activities
 - 64 Obscene matter
 - 65 Nobel winner
 - 66 Eyes
- DOWN
- 1 Catcher's need
 - 2 Concept
 - 3 Fish features
 - 4 Unconfined
 - 5 Sesame and Della
 - 6 Does a snow job
 - 7 Buddhist monk
 - 8 Track at Belmont
 - 9 Obscure
 - 10 Clue for a canine
 - 11 Mongolian mountains
 - 12 Fright
 - 13 Small drum
 - 22 Awaits
 - 24 Musical symbol
 - 26 Pickle flavoring
 - 27 Down Under bird
 - 28 Train with Tyson
 - 29 Catches
 - 30 Ratio words
 - 32 Gaelic
 - 34 Soars
 - 35 - the line
 - 38 Formerly, long ago
 - 37 Court features
 - 40 Grampus
 - 43 Judge
 - 45 Farm machine
 - 47 Eliminated the lady's thumb
 - 49 Collect
 - 50 Majorcan port
 - 51 Music hall
 - 52 "Beau -"
 - 53 Computer fodder
 - 55 Irritate
 - 56 Put the brakes on a bronco, with "in"
 - 58 Associate
 - 59 Ski maneuver
 - 60 Being

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

FORM CURSE CHOP
ALAE AREAL HILL
TENNISGAME AGIO
ASTARTE CARHOP
COLD STASH
MARINE DIOR UMP
AMENS LITRE REL
BELG ROCKS ADRIA
ENA MEDEA SPLIT
STY OVER SHEETS
REDAN STAR
ANADEM MANTEAU
LOCI POLEVAULTS
ALEC EDILE ROLE
NAST DENTS ENID

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DUPLICATE OR RUBBER?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 3
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A K 5

EAST
♠ Q J 9 8
♥ K 7
♦ J 7
♣ J 10 9 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ A J 10 8 3
♦ A K
♣ 7 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣

suggested that, at duplicate, declarer should go down one trick, but South can guarantee 10 tricks at rubber bridge. The great disparity between these results is that duplicate pays handsomely for over-tricks, whereas rubber bridge does not.

At duplicate, declarer should win the first club trick and, despite the appearance of the queen, run the nine of hearts. As the cards lie, that loses to the king and the ten of clubs comes back. East ruffs away the ace and, as long as East carefully jettisons one of his spade honors to allow West to win the third spade with the ten, declarer must still lose a trick in each black suit.

At rubber bridge, declarer wins the opening lead and immediately plays a trump to the ace and another. No matter how the hearts lie, declarer can lose no more than one trick in each suit except diamonds. Why not play that way at duplicate? The chances of the trump finesse working are 50 percent, whereas a 6-1 club break occurs only one in 16 times. And if, indeed, East holds a singleton club, that defender is far more likely to hold trump length, headed by the king. Therefore, the finesse is well worth the risk.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You are liable to allow your mind to wander and should do your best to stop it. Your lucky numbers are 22 and 37. Take a little better care of your health. Do not expect to have everything all your own way. Be respectful.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Make sure you do not neglect your personal appearance. And avoid eating and drinking so much that it shows. You should do your best not to get into bad habits. Be tactful.

Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

You will find it difficult to overcome a certain amount of inertia, but must make the effort. If you try to do too many things all at once you will end up doing none of them well. Better to maintain a steady rhythm than to do things by fits and starts. Be more patient.

Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

Now is a good time to make an important decision, but not on the spur of the moment please. Do not allow your partner to have doubts about your affections. A promise you have made must be kept, however difficult to do so. Be reasonable.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Circumstances are favourable to going ahead with one of your pet projects. You should avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Make sure you do not rely on good luck. Be objective.

Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You should control your responses neither over nor under reacting. You will have to work really hard if you want to meet your commitments. Do not say exactly what you think - if you do you will give offence. Be cordial.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

The prospects are not all that good so do not do anything out of the ordinary and pay even more attention than usual. You will tend to tire easily so do not overextend yourself. Do not expect others to agree with all you say or do. Be tolerant.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

You should do your utmost to stick to the truth and must not resort to bluff. Someone who has made you a promise will only partially fulfill it. Best not to make an issue of it. Be resolute.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will have to overcome a certain reluctance to make a decision. Remember there is more to learn before you are quite proficient in a new skill. Try to show just a little more affection. Be sincere.

Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

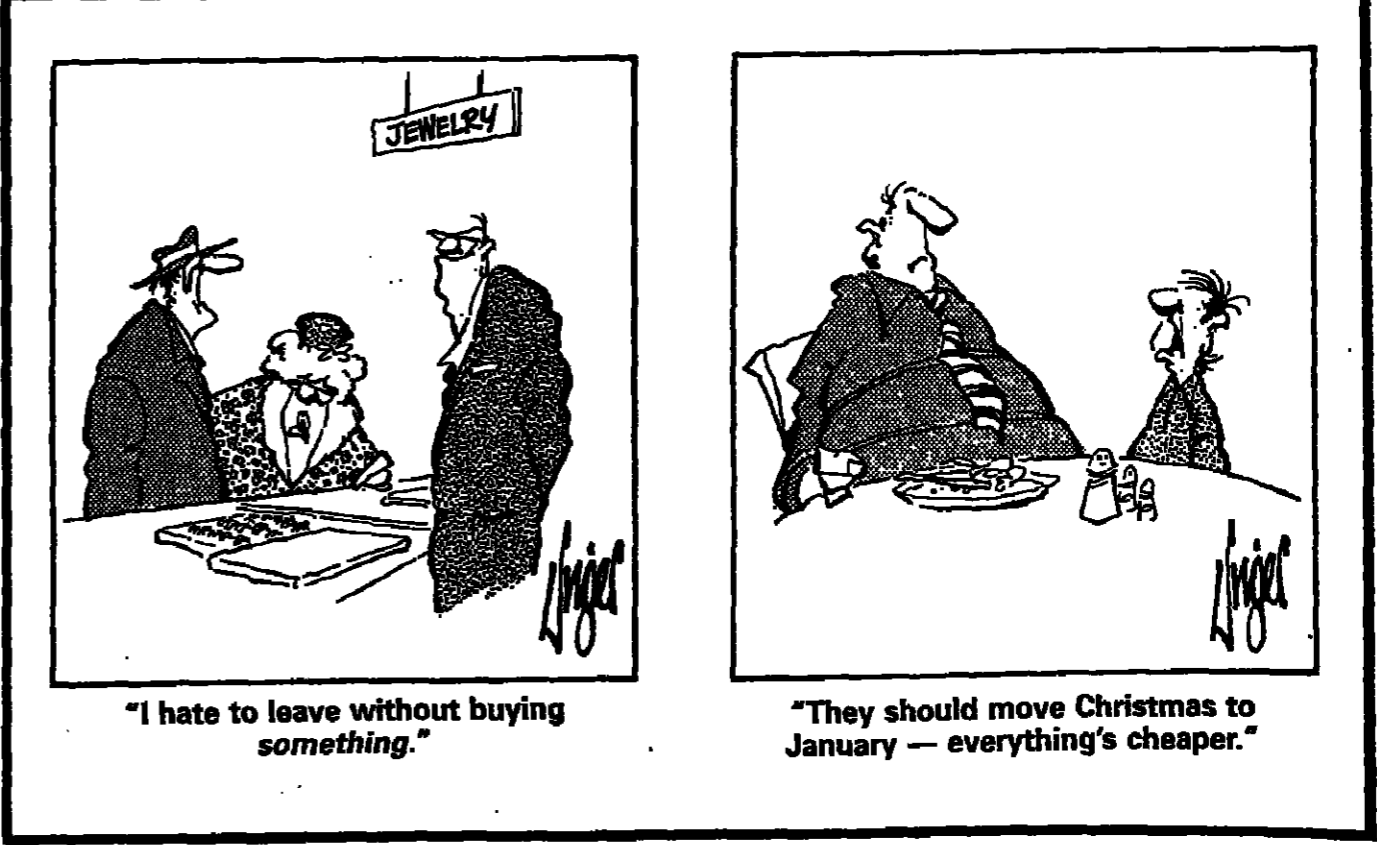
You will have to make a few changes - if you are careful they will be for the better. You should not lose the courage of your convictions. Do not do anything that might displease some good friends. Be responsive.

Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 20

You should pay more attention to the state of your finances and avoid all sorts of extravagance just now. Do not place too much reliance on gossip or hearsay. Leave yourself with enough time to relax but do not think that means to slacken your efforts. Be moderate.

Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You will have quite a bit of energy but must beware of dissipating it. There is reason for a little more optimism, but none for recklessness. Try not to do anything that would give to resentment. Be a good friend.



Auriol and Sainz head for dramatic end to rally

MONTE CARLO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Didier Auriol of France and Carlos Sainz of Spain headed for a dramatic finish to the Monte Carlo Rally when they ended the penultimate stage yesterday separated by the minute margin of four seconds.

The decision between Auriol's Lancia and Sainz's Toyota will be decided in the final stage — the celebrated "Turini night," — when drivers face a demanding all-night ride through the mountains behind Monaco before tomorrow morning's finish.

Auriol and Sainz have been engaged in an enthralling duel through the three days of the rally, never separated by more than a few seconds.

The Frenchman has continually edged ahead when it mattered but he looked in trouble yesterday as he trailed Sainz by five seconds after the fifth of the day's six special timed sections. But he got back ahead on the last one — the 18th out of 28 in the rally — even if his lead was out from 16 seconds overnight to a less than reassuring four.

World champion and last year's winner Massimo Biasion of Italy stayed third in his Lancia but lost ground again and trailed by two minutes 26 seconds, out of serious contention unless the two leaders suffer mishaps in the Turini.

Finn Ari Vatanen, crowned Paris-Dakar winner just a week ago, had to bow out with engine trouble, after his Mitsubishi, which was already showing signs of problems on Monday, finally let him down.

He quit just before the day's last special stage — Compagno. Hannu Mikkola, a former world champion, also withdrew when his Mazda developed a transmission problem.

Their withdrawals brought a woman into the top 10 for the first time. Briton Louise Aitken-Walker, whose main target is to win the Ladies Cup, moved into 10th place but is more than 28 minutes behind Auriol and Sainz.

Today, the first 100 in the overall standings enjoy a rest day before setting out on the final stage.

Lendl, Edberg, Noah win

Wilander stuns Becker



Wilander reacts triumphantly after his victory while Becker (below) has the disappointment written on his face. (Reuters wirephotos)



MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 24, (Reuters): Mats Wilander returned to top form to score a majestic three set win over Boris Becker in the quarter-final of the Australian Open tennis championships today.

Wilander, going for his fourth Australian title, was at his classic best in cutting down second seed Becker 6-4 6-2 in the 37 degree Celsius (98 Fahrenheit) heat and swirling wind on the centre court.

Becker, who has never gone beyond the quarterfinals of the tournament, was lethargic in the heat, netting five backhands in losing the final game.

Facing defeat, Becker took off his protective hat for the third set, but it made no difference and he continued to be beaten by the deadly passing shots from Wilander.

Becker had come back from two sets down against Czechoslovakia's Miloslav Mecir in the fourth round on Monday but Wilander, the eighth seed, was a different proposition.

It was sweet revenge for Wilander, who was last month beaten by Becker during West Germany's Davis Cup final win.

"After the first set I thought I had a chance but I also remembered what he did against Mecir," said Wilander.

"I was a little surprised I was able to read his serve as well as I did."

Wilander now plays fellow Swede Stefan Edberg in the semifinals. Edberg beat American David Wheaton 7-5 6-7 (7-4) 3-6 6-2 on number one court while top seed Ivan Lendl was comfortably disposing of the Soviet Union's Andrei Cherkasov 6-3 6-2 6-3 on centre court.

Defending champion Lendl used little energy to reach the semifinals, taking just two hours to outclass Cherkasov.

"The hot wind was pretty bad. It was just unpleasant. I did not want to be out there for five sets," said Lendl, who was far too strong for his opponent.

Lendl began the match with a service break, and although Cherkasov, ranked 82 in the world, rallied well in the middle of each set, he was never a threat.

Lendl said his foreign legion-style hat, with a flap over the neck, was a big help, but he will come under stronger pressure in the semifinals, where he will meet Yannick Noah of France.

Tournament officials said that if the players agree they are considering closing the roof of the centre court for the semifinals to lower the temperature. The rules state that if a temperature of over 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) is forecast at 9 am the roof can be closed.

"I don't enjoy being out there to the point of being physically and mentally exhausted," said Lendl.

Third seed Edberg also battled through the heat and strong winds of the more exposed number one court to see off the gallant challenge of Wheaton, a 20-year-old from Minneapolis.

The American, ranked 46 in the world, squandered a set point in the second set but won the third as Edberg's concentration wavered in the difficult conditions.

The hot, northerly wind blew so strongly that courtside umbrellas and Wheaton's chair was overturned but twice Australian Open champion Edberg recovered to break his opponent in the first and seventh games of the fourth set to set up victory.

"I could have found myself in a bit of trouble if I had lost the second set," said Edberg, involved in a five-set men's doubles match the previous evening.

Frenchman Yannick Noah later reached his first Grand Slam semifinal since he won the French Open title in 1983.

He was in sparkling form as he swept out Sweden's Mikael Pernfors 6-3 7-5 6-2 to book an appointment with Lendl in the last four.

"Every time I play Lendl, it's a special match," said Noah. "It's not going to be the same match. It's going to be hot, but I feel confident and I hope he remembers what happened in Sydney," said Noah, who beat Lendl in straight sets at the New South Wales Open earlier this month.

"I'm serving well. I'm healthy and I cover the net very well. Anyone who wants to beat me will have to return very well and pass well, too."



NBA games

WASHINGTON Bullets' Bernard King (right) goes up for two points as Dallas Mavericks Sam Perkins tries to block during their National Basketball Association game in Dallas on Tuesday. Right: Los Angeles Lakers' Michael Thompson (left) gets New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing off his feet as he drives for the basket. The results of the matches played Tuesday evening were as follows: Atlanta Hawks 106 Charlotte Hornets 101; Phoenix Suns 118 Miami Heat 99; Philadelphia 76ers 103 Cleveland Cavaliers 88; Los Angeles Lakers 118 New York Nets 97; Detroit Pistons 107 Chicago Bulls 95; Dallas Mavericks 129 Washington Bullets 105; Utah Jazz 102 Houston Rockets 94; Golden State Warriors 109 Minnesota Timberwolves 102; Portland Trail Blazers 119 Milwaukee Bucks 90.

Little League team benched

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Jan 24, (AP): A youth baseball team that has been regarded at the White house and across the United States since winning the world championship in August is now being benched.

The president of the US Little League Organisation, Creighton Hale, has ordered the Trumbull Little League All-stars to curtail their public appearances or risk losing their charter. He said he is worried that the boys might lose their heads from all the attention.

"These are 11- and 12-year-old youngsters. They are not grown men and they really aren't great athletes," Hale said in a telephone interview on Monday.

Parents and coaches welcomed the order, saying they had grown weary of all the attention being showered on the young stars — and also were worried about what effect it would have.

"Everybody's relieved and happy that Little League took the action they did so we could get back to normal without some of us being the bad guys saying it was over," said Tom Galla, who managed the team.

Hubara beat Casuals

HUBARA beat Casuals by 8 wickets in the Thursday League, played at Ahmadi last weekend.

Despite only having 10 men and several key players missing, Casuals put up a good batting performance. The openers, Seward and Arton-Powell, looked in no particular difficulty on a pitch that offered little bounce. Seward used the edge to great effect, and was lucky to survive a sharp chance to gully. Arton-Powell looked very correct and must be one of the league's most improved players. Both batsmen were keen to take the quick single whenever the opportunity arose, surviving some close calls, until Arton-Powell was run out by Coulson, for 24. Seward went on to make 58 before falling caught and howled to Shipton.

Snowden was out to a good catch by Jacobs off Boldy. Talbot then claimed two wickets in consecutive balls as he caught and bowled Clements and then bowled Akram, leaving Bond and Fernando to take the score to 121 of 25 overs. The Hubara innings started as ever, looking comfortable against a weakened Casuals attack, until once again Talbot was bowled by Snowden, to a ball that did not get up, but was intended to go to the boundary. Shipton fell in similar fashion to the great delight of the rampant Snowden.

Van Basten to get \$11.8m

MILAN, Italy, Jan 24, (Reuters): World club champions AC Milan said its lawyers agreed terms yesterday for the renewal of Dutch international striker Marco van Basten's contract for another three years.

Club officials said the contract, said to be worth \$11.8 million, would be signed by the European Footballer of the Year in the next few days, probably at club president Silvio Berlusconi's luxury villa at Arcore, northeast of Milan.

"What a relief he's staying with us until 1993. Imagine the torture every goal he scored would have been for us, knowing he would leave at the end of the season," said media magnate Berlusconi.

EVENTS



Reception for cyclist

The Indian group, Bharathi Kalai Mandram on Monday hosted a reception for the Indian cyclist, Jayaraman Ganesan, who was in Kuwait as part of a world tour. The BKM also assisted Ganesan during his stay here. Picture shows: Indian First Secretary Abdul Khaliq addressing guests as BKM chairman Dr Doraiswamy and Ganesan (centre) look on.



Employee of the Year

Fathi Abdennadher, general manager, with Department Heads of Holiday Inn Kuwait, recently presented the "Employee of the Year" award to Priyantha Kumarasinghe of personnel department for over-all outstanding performance and service to the staff.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.45 Sabah Al Kher, variety
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Sabah Al Kher, news
- 10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Redha, Ameena Reza, Bader Al Deen Jamoun
- 11.30 The Open University: cultural programme
- 12.00 Sabah Al Kher, variety
- 12.15 Hawar Wa Nigham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hameed, presented by Nervana Edrees
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.25 Min Ghair Kalam: variety programmes (part 4), presented by Hassan Mustafa
- 2.15 Discovery: cultural programme (part 4)
- 3.00 Varieties
- 3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme
- 5.00 Bercen: cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq: historical serial (part 8)
- 7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local

- programme prepared by the Ministry of Education's school activities department
- 8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local programme, prepared by Hassan Awar, presented by Rsha Majdi
- 8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Laeboun Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 4)
- 10.45 Assal Al Hob Al Mor: Arabic feature film, starring Noor Al Shereef, Maali Zayed, Saeed Saleh and Isaad Younis
- 12.20 Thursday late night variety show
- 1.30 News summary
- 1.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.50 Holy Quran and closedown
- FRIDAY
- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.45 Cartoon serial (part 2)
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Children Magazine: Local children programme
- 11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious serial, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
- 11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday

- Prayers and speeches
- 12.15 Alwan L variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.20 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 2.00 The Friday break, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
- 4.00 Daerat Al Ahdath: Local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Al Abdul Jalal
- 5.00 Bercen: Cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Kuwait Television programmes in a week: Local programme, prepared and presented by News Control
- 7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural programme (part 4)
- 8.00 The Family Programme: Local programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burtoqli and presented by Fatooh Al Dalali
- 8.45 Hadeeth Al Osboon: religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar

- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Wrestling
- 10.30 Sports and Arts: Local variety late night show, prepared by Khaled Al Mstair and presented by Ibrahim Al Harbi
- 11.45 News summary
- 11.50 The World Today via satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Cartoons
- 6.30 Walt Disney Film: "Sancho, the Homing Steer". Sancho a young calf, is raised by Ed cowboy and his wife Maria...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait...
- 8.45 Rescue 911: A mother and her son are rescued after their car is driven into a river... A woman stabbed by a thief... A young man and his girlfriend are trapped in their boat, etc.
- 9.30 The Weekend Programme
- 10.00 Roseanne, Darlyn the youngest daughter has an appendectomy.
- 10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Sex and Detective".
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Kannada Koota

KUWAIT Kannada Koota, the well-known cultural association in Kuwait, is represented by Kannada-speaking families hailing from and around the state of Karnataka, India. It was formed six years ago and has been active in presenting cultural events representing the rich cultural heritage of the state of Karnataka. Kuwait Kannada Koota held its annual general body meeting on Jan 5, 1990 and elected the new office bearers for the year 1990. The following members were elected unanimously: President: B.R.K. Prasad; vice-president: R.R. Rajendra; gen. secretary: G.V. Prabhu; jr. sec./treasurer: Dr. A. Rao. The association held its last annual event during the first week of November 1989.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Salmiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Milagro Beanfield War
- Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Firdous Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
- Shyam Fahaeel Zulum
- Al Jahra Arabic film
- Granada Hall Booked
- Salaibikhat Lal Americayil
- Jleeb Dhan Daulat

- Ahmad Drive-in Arabic film
- FRIDAY
- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Salmiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Milagro Beanfield War
- Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Jahra Moon Trap
- Al Firdous Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
- Shyam Fahaeel Zulum

Granada Hall Booked

PRAYERS

- Fajr 5.19 am
- Zohr 12.00
- Asr 3.00 pm
- Maghreb 5.20
- Isha 6.39
- FRIDAY
- Fajr 5.18 am
- Zohr 12.01
- Asr 3.00 pm
- Maghreb 5.21
- Isha 6.40

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Therban Pharmacy Arabian Gulf Street
- Al Mojel Pharmacy Abdullah Al Mubarak Street
- Hawalli & Nagra
- Al Naser Pharmacy Tunis Street
- Salmiya & Rumaithiya
- Al Feda Pharmacy Al Khansa Street
- Fahaeel & Ahmadi Burqan Pharmacy
- Al Sabah Souq
- Farwaniya
- Al Yasmeen Pharmacy Main Street
- Jahra
- Al Abraj Pharmacy Daabal Al Khozai Street

